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THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2009

War of words in council as the Mayor is accused of having 'tunnel vision'

THERE was a furious row between councillors at the last meeting of Cowbridge Town Council.

At one point, former mayor Marian Arnold threatened to walk out and accused the present mayor, Coun Jon Harris, of having "tunnel vision". He in turn accused her of creating divisions within the council.

It started when Coun Arnold was presenting her report as chairman of the leisure and amenities committee.

The minutes of the last meeting of the committee contained a recommendation that the fencing at the Cae Rex allotments, which are owned by the council, should be replaced as quickly as possible, with payment for the work coming from the council's reserves. This had to be approved by the full council.

Coun Arnold said that it was going to cost about £1,600 for the contractor to remove the old concrete posts from the existing fence. There had been a delay because of difficulties in disposing of these posts, but the contractor had found a special place to take them in Newport.

"This has gone on and on. People are doing a fantastic job on their allotments, but they are suffering from intruders coming over the fence. We decided to go ahead with this work because it is desperately needed and it is our land."

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

She did not know what the total cost of the project would be, but it would not be the £10,000 that had been mentioned previously.

Coun Harris asked why the committee was not waiting for the outcome of the application that had already been made by the council for a CASH grant from the Vale Council to cover the cost. He said that an application for £10,000 had been made.

Coun Arnold said that Coun Harris was the only member of the L and A committee who had voted against providing the fence.

"This has been on the agenda for a long time before you became deputy mayor," she said.

"Members of the allotments are asking for this. The site is an eyesore and it is something we have to rectify."

Coun Harris said he was opposed to the way this was being done: "I voted against it, not because I was in disagreement with renewing the fence, but because of the way it is done," he said.

"We agreed to ask for a CASH grant, but it now seems the cost will come out of the council's reserves. No budget for this fence was included in this year's estimates."

Coun Arnold pointed out that this item had been put into the budget for many years up until this year.

She added: "In January, you accused the committee of not spending £11,000 in its budget."

Coun Harris replied that the committee had applied for a CASH grant and was now proposing to pay for the fence out of council reserves.

Coun Arnold then broadened the argument out into money being spent by the finance and general purposes committee, which was chaired by Coun Harris until he was installed as mayor last month, on the replacement of the sewer at the Limes Cemetery.

She said that the council was finding the money for that – even though it did not own the sewer and was not legally liable for it:: "This fence has been waiting to be done for years. It is not new. It has been going on for years."

Coun Harris said that the whole question should be sent to the finance and general purposes committee for them to decide if there was funding available.

"It is a large sum and what about the CASH grant? Do we withdraw it?"

Coun Arnold insisted that the scheme could not wait: "The contractor has found a place that will take these posts. He has done a lot of work."

But Coun Harris said that while the scheme would please one or two allotment holders, he wondered if the rest of Cowbridge wanted to spend money for the benefit of "a few" people.

Coun Arnold said that the council was finding £2,000 for the playground in Aberthin and was providing money for the new sewer: "This is something that we do own and we have a duty to keep it in good repair."

At this point, former mayor, David Morris, intervened to ask if the CASH grant had been submitted and clerk Andrew Davies said that it had, but they were not considered straight away.

Coun Morris asked about the timescale: "I understand what both parties are saying. Can we try and find out if our application will get a favourable response? If not, it should go to the finance committee."

Coun Arnold said that she walks past these allotments every day: "The fence is in a dreadful state. I have had people coming up to me about it. We have agreed to lease the allotments out and there are things we must pay for.

"It was agreed years ago – we must have this land properly fenced."

Coun Morris said that allotments were 'top of the pops' nationally at the moment and even the Queen had one – "But we should wait and see if we get the CASH grant."

Coun Arnold said that the leisure and amenities committee had the money in its budget, but it was taken away from them at the start of the new financial year: "The mayor said no. Is that the answer?"

Coun Geoff Cox felt that as the council had applied for a CASH grant, it should wait and see what was happening.

But Coun Arnold said that the fence was in a bad way and the council would be letting the people of Cowbridge down if it did not do this work. Coun Cox repeated that the question of the grant should be resolved first.

Coun Arnold said that the committee had been accused by Coun Harris of not spending its budget and that money had been taken away.

Coun Sue Cox said that the council should contact the Vale and say that the fence was deteriorating and ask for an early decision. This was agreed, with Coun Arnold and Coun Andrea Burgess voting against.

When the minutes of the finance and general purposes committee came up, Coun Arnold returned to the attack and raised the question of the sewer, as this item was included in the minutes.

(*Continued on page 4*)

WARNING FOR DRIVERS

Clamp-down starts on illegal parking in town

POLICE have begun a clamp-down on illegal parking in the centre of Cowbridge.

Insp Mark Taylor told Cowbridge Town Council that officers had been booking drivers illegally parked in the disabled bay and on bus stops.

Coun Sue Cox and Coun Gwen Baty had both complained at the previous meeting about this issue.

Coun Cox said that genuine disabled drivers had been unable to get into the bay by Tesco because it was always full of cars, while Coun Baty stated that buses were unable to pull into their stops and were having to let passengers dismount in the road, which was dangerous.

Insp Taylor said that he had raised this with the officers who cover Cowbridge, and quite a few drivers had been booked. However, he added that some disabled drivers were themselves parking illegally, because they were stopping on stretches of the main road which also have a loading and unloading ban.

"We don't want to be booking them but they are not allowed to park if there's a loading ban. They should watch out for the yellow lines on the kerbs."

He said he would keep urging his officers to enforce the ban on other drivers using disabled bays, because disabled drivers need to be able to use them.

CRIME HALVED

CRIME rates in Cowbridge have halved over the past year, Insp Taylor reported.

He produced crime figures which showed that there were 32 crimes in May 2008 – compared to 16 crimes in May this year.

"There has been a 50 per cent drop and we are very pleased with that. We have had no burglaries at all – dwelling house or other – and there were no thefts of motor cars and just one theft from a car, compared to five in May last year," Insp Taylor revealed.

Other thefts had dropped from seven to two, but there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour incidents – up from seven to nine – and of assaults from one to two.

"Anti-social behaviour is a large category that covers all sorts of things. I have looked at this but there's nothing there that causes me any alarm. I have delved into all the cases."

He was asked to include drug cases in future crime figures and said he would do that, but pointed out that whenever these figures rose, it was because the police had been proactive and had initiated raids and made arrests.

Vale MP's expenses on the web

THE House of Commons has just put the expenses of all MPs on line.

The GEM has been looking at Vale MP John Smith, and our report (and a short guide) can be found on page 8.

Cowbridge Council *IN BRIEF*

COWBRIDGE Town Council has granted £100 to South Wales Police, towards the cost of running the "We are the champions" competition with primary schools throughout the Vale.

However, a further request from police for funding towards the annual police outward bound trip was refused.

• *Cowbridge Town Council is to give sympathetic consideration to any request to stage a welcome-home ceremony for any of the armed forces coming back to the area from any of the conflict zones.*

The council was contacted by the Reserved Forces Association, which asked if a march or civic tea could be staged.

Coun Len Taylor said it was unlikely that this would happen in Cowbridge, but he said it would be considered sympathetically if it arose.

• Coun Sue Cox has urged residents to visit the exhibition being staged in the library on plans to revamp the gardens at Old Hall.

She said that the Charter Trust, which was staging the exhibition, had to prove that it had carried out public consultation in order to qualify for grants. She urged people to fill in the comment forms, giving their views on the proposals.

• *A recipient worthy of the Good Citizen Award has been selected, town councillors heard. The recipient is to be approached and asked if they accept the award – and then it will be publicised.*

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Article brought back fond Panto memories at Llantwit

READING a GEM article about the high cost of recent productions of the Llantwit Major Pantomime Society, took me back to the late 1960s when we had to do it all on a shoe-string.

The late Mrs Newberry and I put on *Sleeping Beauty* for the week in the Old YMCA, which was then part of the old St Illtyd's School.

We hand-painted our own scenery, which unfortunately was later destroyed in the school fire.

We held a jumble sale to raise funds, and the local council gave us a grant of £10.

Also, we were lucky to have some lovely clothes given to us from a Cardiff shop that was closing down.

I designed the costumes, which we made ourselves.

Having been a professional dancer when young and in many pantomimes, I trained the 20 young dancers.

A funny thing happened during the *Sleeping Beauty* production: My father Sydney Havard and I had to paint a scene of the town hall, and we had to have a recording of the striking clock at 11am.

Instead, it was done at mid-day, just when the children were coming out of school, and the cars were sounding their horns.

We all fell about laughing – but I don't think the audience found it quite so funny.

Faith Francis, Llantwit Major

Democracy rules in Europe..?

IF your recent correspondent is concerned about the undemocratic government of this country, he should consider the European Commission, which gives us 80 per cent of our laws.

Baroness Kinnock's husband was appointed to it on the single vote of Mr John Major, and our last commissioner, Mr Mandelson, was appointed on the single vote of his friend Mr Tony Blair.

The UK is, of course, hopelessly outnumbered on the Commission and is, in the name of 'streamlining', about to give up a large number of vetoes which could have been used to protect our interests.

Why generations of our political leaders have surrendered more and more power to this antidemocratic institution is one of the mysteries of our age.

Perhaps we are being denied a general election until after the Irish referendum, in the hope that they will approve the Lisbon thing.

Then it will be too late for Mr. Cameron's promised referendum here. EU supremacy will be complete.

If we are concerned about the way our MPs have exploited the expenses system, then considering what they do in Europe would only make us unhappy.

RH Bradshaw

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Why build 2,000 houses on haven for wildlife in Barry?

I AM extremely concerned over the conservation of our green spaces and the way Barry is disappearing beneath a layer of rubble and concrete.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the public exhibition held by the Barry Waterfront Consortium but I wish to express my concerns over the proposed regeneration scheme at Barry Waterfront, namely the area known as West Pond.

Looking across to Barry Island, it is the field on the right hand side. I don't know how many people are aware that this field is a haven for wildlife and flora.

It is packed with numerous wild flowers and grasses, some of which may be rare and threatened species.

This flora provides food and home for many insects, including bees, which I believe face extinction at this time.

Also, hundreds of skylarks nest in this field and the adjacent field. These little birds fill the sky with their song. Where will they go if the planned works go ahead?

According to plans, there are to be 2,000 houses built on this land; why? Half the properties already built on the Waterfront are for sale or empty.

The apartments that have been created in the Barry Hotel are not exactly selling like hot-cakes. Why can't this new development be built on brown sites?

Why does a beautiful area between the Island and town have to be ruined?

I appreciate that another road is required to access Barry Island, but that could be built, leaving the fields virtually untouched.

Why is money not being spent on making Barry Island a more attractive place for visitors?

Bistros and wine bars could be built, cafes and restaurants could be modernised and cleaned up. We could have a 'continental life style' right by the sea.

Now that the beach is so much cleaner, it would be a far more attractive place than the Waterfront. Why does it have to be like Cardiff Bay – let's be different, clean up Barry Island and make it worth visiting. Leave the fields full of flowers, wild life and birdsong.

Haven't we been warned enough about endangered insects and flowers – the whole structure of life will collapse without these and we are doing nothing to prevent it.

Kathleen Woodfin, Barry

Diversity is not to be feared

EITHER your recent letter writer Mr Reid does not know much about the history of his party, or he is attempting to fool some of your readers.

The BNP's anti-Semitism goes right to the top of the party. In 1998, their Leader and now newly elected Member of the European Parliament, Nick Griffin, wrote in a pamphlet.

"I am well aware that the orthodox opinion is that six million Jews were gassed and cremated or turned into lamp shades. Orthodox opinion also once held that the earth is flat…I have reached the conclusion that the 'extermination' tale is a mixture of Allied wartime propaganda, extremely profitable lie and latter witch-hysteria."

Are these the words of someone who recognises the appalling suffering the Jewish people had to endure at the hands of the Nazi regime?

The fact is the BNP is dedicated to imposing apartheid-style rule in Britain. It wants to create a system that is based on the nonsense that white people are superior to all others. Black and Asian people would become second-class citizens under the law.

The BNP want to deport all those people who were not born in Britain.

In fact, I suspect the majority of white people who call Britain home could trace their ancestry to "foreign countries" like Italy (Romans), France (Normans), Germany (Saxons and Angles), Denmark (Vikings) and even some Irish and Greek.

Purity of blood is nothing more than a fascist nightmare. Diversity is something to be celebrated, not feared. Britain is that much Greater because of its proud tradition of tolerance, equality and respect.

Rob Curtis, Barry (Labour councillor)

Filthy language on the streets of Barry

FOLLOWING an enjoyable session of 'Clap, Tap and Rhyme' at Barry Library today, I wandered into town with my three-year-old son and four-month-old daughter for a stroll around the shops and the market.

However, my enjoyment of the bustling atmosphere and the glorious weather was spoiled as I shopped amongst people using filthy language in the street and shops.

I would add that this swearing (of the crudest kind) was not carried out by young people, hoodies or yobbos, but by women well into middle age and beyond who should be able to control themselves in public.

In one shop, a woman bantered with the shop assistant who she obviously knew, using such obscenities that I couldn't wait to get my young son out.

How people wish to communicate at home is their own business, but please show a bit of restraint when there are others, especially children around.

Thank you for a very informative read each week.

(Name and address supplied)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 02)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
25 Thur	09.44	14.8	22.02	14.9
26 Fri	10.33	14.6	22.51	14.7
27 Sat	11.19	14.3	23.38	14.5
28 Sun			12.09	13.9
29 Mon	00.25	13.9	12.47	13.4
30 Tues	01.14	13.4	13,36	13.0
01 Wed	01.58	12.9	14.33	12.5
02 Thur	02.54	12.5	15.33	12.3

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CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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COWBRIDGE CAFE'S SPECIAL GUESTS!

THE local mallards have worked out that duck *a l'orange* is not on the menu at the Ogmore Vale Bakery in Cowbridge.

For the second time in just eight weeks, a nesting pair made their home high in the hedge that borders the cafe's open air dining area.

Once again, when the ducklings hatched, mother duck brought them down into the courtyard and then found that there is no exit to the nearby River Thaw.

Staff at the cafe had no choice but to close the dining area for the day, as the mother treated ant visitors with suspicion – and the occasional burst of aggressive defence.

Finally, the ducklings were collected as gently as possible, and taken to a nearby farm aviary, where they will be kept until old enough to be released into the wild.

Silver service for the ducklings!

ABOVE: 'Hey, are you looking at me?' Mother duck thinks The GEM photographer is getting too close.

Vale mum wins a top PA award

COWBRIDGE mother of two, Catherine Smith, has been named runner-up for the Hays & Times Crème PA of the Year 2009 award.

She is PA to two directors at the National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) based in Llanharan and collected her award from Geoff Sims, managing director of Hays Secretarial, at a special event held on the London Eye.

Catherine was nominated for her award by agency finance director Andy Butler.

"I thought Catherine's enthusiasm and dedication to her job and her desire to help others should be recognised and I am delighted that she has been awarded this prize," he said.

Curate's first local service

COWBRIDGE curate, Matthew Trick, will be celebrating his first eucharist at Holy Cross Church on Tuesday, June 30.

Rev Trick is being ordained at Llandaff Cathedral three days earlier.

He has been in the parish for a year and hopes that as many people as possible will attend this service at 7.30pm.

HOLIDAY CLUB

THE Churches Together Holiday Club in Cowbridge enters its tenth year and youngsters will rocket into outer space as organisers put on the Starship Discovery Holiday Club for five to 11-year-olds from local schools.

The club will run from July 21-24 at the United Free Church in Cowbridge and there will be a celebration service at the church at 10.30am on Sunday, July 26, followed by a barbecue.

Club 707 is having a charity car wash, with the help of Cowbridge Fire Station, followed by a barbecue and short talk at Holy Cross, on Saturday, July 4.

Council will co-opt members

THERE will be no election to fill the vacant seat on Cowbridge Town Council caused by the resignation of Coun Audrey Harding.

Clerk Andrew Davies reported that nobody had requested an election, which meant that the town council can co-opt someone to fill the vacancy.

He said that notices advertising the co-option would be put up outside the office and in The GEM. People will then be able to nominate someone to be co-opted. The closing date for anyone interested is July 3.

Mayor celebrates with centenarian

MAYOR Jon Harris told Cowbridge Town Council that he had visited a well-known local woman who was celebrating her 100th birthday.

He said he had visited Betty Jenkins to wish her many happy returns and had taken a bottle of sherry and a card.

Ms Jenkins is in a Bridgend home but was one of a large Cowbridge family.

"The sherry was very popular and everyone had a glass. It was a lovely occasion," he reported.

Coun Marian Arnold said that the Jenkins family had a great history of involvement with the council in Cowbridge.

"She is a very well known lady, who was nanny to Roddy and Dai Llewelyn. Roddy visits her often," she commented.

'GOALPOSTS HAVE CHANGED'

Councillor expresses concern over defence college noise levels

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A FLEMINGSTON councillor is questioning the small print of plans for the military training complex at St Athan – and says that noise levels could be a major problem.

The Vale Council is currently considering the extensive planning application for the Defence Training College (DTC), and the public are being invited to express their views.

Coun Roger Eustace told The GEM: "There has been much local support for the DTC, but the previous public consultations and exhibitions made little mention of the type of military training – which was always presented as low level.

"The goalposts have now changed."

Coun Eustace can see problems ahead from a number of areas, with noise a major concern.

He said: "There will be a significant adverse impact upon the local communities from military activities, which include engine running, tank pad and road from 2014, flightline with up to three military jet aircraft training on northern cross runway for up to four hours per day (Monday to Friday), Picketston firing range and Picketston field training area."

He said: "Section 16.15 of the application confirms that the significant detrimental noise levels from the engine running will affect properties to the south of Boverton; and ground noise sources from core activities will affect properties to the west of Llantwit Road (Briarbank) and Boverton Mill Farm in 2014 and 2020.

"There will be a significant increase in road traffic noise due to additional development-related traffic on existing and new roads, and the cumulative effect of ambient noise levels due to change in airfield uses, field training and road traffic will affect Broadway Nursing Home and other areas."

Coun Eustace is concerned that Picketston Firing Range (document 16, pages 93 – 96) will be in use most of day from 8.30am – 4.30pm, with eight lanes that could be in use at any one time, with 40-minute sessions using 40 rounds on each lane.

There is an existing firing range, but at present it is used quite sparingly. However, when the defence college is running to capacity, there will be a big increase. The nearest properties are in the New Barn Road area.

He said: "There will also be firing during the hours of darkness, but sessions will be less frequent and involve 10 rounds on each lane. Where possible, firing will cease before 11pm.

"The range will also be used for armament testing, including 5.56mm minigun and the larger calibre general purpose machine gun. These will be used two or three times a month for half a day, and would typically comprise four or five bursts per weapon"

He continued: "A typical training day at Picketston Field Training Area (document 16, pages 96-97) will be 8.30am – 5.30pm, but blank firing of weapons will also arise outside these hours, and would be undertaken before 11pm, where possible.

"The area will mainly be used for ambush training comprising noisy initial demonstrations followed by a few hours of dry drills. Typically, there will be eight demonstrations per day consisting of two Land Rovers being ambushed by one or two thunder flashes, with possibly blank small arms fire from SA80 rifles up to 30 rounds

"Acoustic fencing and bunding will be installed, but there will still be a medium to high magnitude effect on neighbouring properties."

Coun Eustace concluded: "This extension of activities must be resisted for the sake of the local communities. The public consultation ends soon and I urge residents to register their views with the Vale Council through community or town councils."

Councillors to deliver leaflets

IF you see Cowbridge and Llanblethian town councillors out and about delivering leaflets, don't worry, it's not an election!

The council has volunteered to deliver 1,500 consultation forms to residents living within the town's conservation area.

The Vale Council is asking people for its views and requested that the town council help out.

Clerk Andrew Davies told members he had received all the forms and return envelopes for the conservation area appraisal. He also has a list of addresses where they are to be delivered.

Mayor Jon Harris said that the council had agreed to take this on and he said that it was good for councillors to be seen out and about doing this.

He asked members to volunteer to cover certain sections of the town.

Chinese artist draws up links

EARLIER this year, with the encouragement and help of the British Council Wales, Cowbridge Comprehensive School established a link with a secondary school in Chongqing, south western China.

Xiaoyi Li.

The British Council Wales have underwritten that link by passing on a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government to foster cultural and educational links between Wales and China.

With an eye to nurturing those links, Chinese artist Xiaoyi Li has visited the school.

Xiaoyi Li spoke to the pupils about the origins of the symbols that form the Chinese alphabet, and then instructed them in the basics of Chinese calligraphy.

When it came to putting what they had learned into practice, the year-10 GCSE art pupils who took part were all anxious to write their names in Chinese script!

Xiaoyi Li reported that she was astonished with the enthusiasm of the pupils. The head of art, Mrs Claire Parry, was "delighted" with the way her Welsh pupils engaged with the intricacies of holding a Chinese calligraphy pen.

Based in London, Xiaoyi Li hails from a family of artists whose home is a city in northern China called Wulumuqi, an ancient city which she reliably informed us is on the Old Silk Road.

Xiaoyi Li stated: "Art is the platform for understanding another culture."

If she is right, there is no doubt that the Cowbridge school is already benefiting from its Chinese link!

Cowbridge High Street – from the right direction!

THE photograph in the June 11 issue of GEM captioned 'A view of Cowbridge High Street, seen from Primrose Hill' was in fact taken from above the Llantwit Major Road junction.

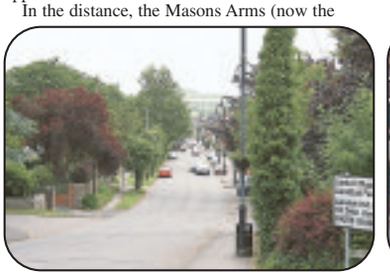
The large white building on the left-hand side about a quarter of the way down the picture is Ramoth Baptist Church, with the Police Station opposite.

In the distance, the Masons Arms (now the Market Place) can be just made out as the road narrows.

It is not possible to reconstruct the photograph today – trees prevent access - but the attached photograph confirms the rough location.

The second photograph, taken from opposite the Edmonds Arms, proves that the road (Eastgate, not the High Street) is too narrow.

JOHN UPSTONE (Llanblethian)



ABOVE: Cowbridge High Street.

The Eastgate view.

Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy Ch1 V10 (Cowbridge Christian Fellowship)

Y Bont Faen's young musicians put on a show

PUPILS at Y Bont Faen Primary School recently held two musical afternoons when children learning an instrument were able to perform in front of an audience.

Jane Cooper, the school's music co-ordinator,said: "The children had a great time showing off their new-found skills with great confidence.

Pupils from year-3 and year-4 performed on one day, while year-5 and year-6 played on the next day.

The pupils also had a guest musical performance from 'the Belles of St Mary's' – a group of bell-ringers whowanted to show that it's never too late to learn a new musical skill!

ABOVE: The year-5 and year-6 musical performers.

ABOVE: The pupils enjoyed a demonstration of bell-ringing.

ABOVE: The year-3 and year-4 pupils.

Council war of words

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She asked how many graves were going to be lost because of the decision to move the sewer from its position, cutting across the cemetery diagonally and re-route it around the boundary.

"Leisure and amenities knows nothing about this plan. Where will the paths go? Can anybody tell me? We have a right to know what's going on. The lay-out of the cemetery comes under the remit of L and A. We must be consulted on this."

The issue of the sewer was taken from L and A committee and given to finance and general purposes under Coun Harris some time ago.

The new chairman of F and GP, Coun Len Taylor, said that all the information would be available at the appropriate time.

But Coun Arnold said that the L and A committee was being ignored.

Coun Taylor disputed that: "There will be a considerable net gain in the number of graves," he said. "When the new sewer is complete, LA and A will determine the lay out."

Coun Arnold again asked how many graves would be lost by the diversion.

"It is a simple question and I want a simple answer," she demanded.

Asked by Coun Sue Cox to explain what she meant, Coun Arnold said she was talking about how putting the sewer around the top and side of the cemetery would reduce the number of new graves that could be dug.

She also pointed out that paths will have to be installed, which will also reduce the number.

Coun Taylor stated that the council would have to get a new lay-out plan drawn up showing the diversion of the sewer: "But this change will result in a significant increase in the number of new graves."

Coun Arnold disagreed: "Before we spend this money on diverting the sewer, we should know how many graves will be gone," she insisted.

Coun Harris was adamant that there would be a "net gain." It would be the responsibility of the L and A committee to decide the lay-out.

"Stop making this divisive with the F and GP committee. We had a cemetery with an area that could not be used. We have done our best to maximise the available space for the benefit of the town. This has been agreed by this council."

Coun David Morris accused Coun Arnold of blocking the move to sort out the cemetery and of going around in circles and at this point, Coun Arnold threatened to go home.

"I cannot argue with you. You are tunnel sighted," she said. "I am sorry that there are only two members of L and A here – myself and Coun Burgess. Coun Baty and Coun Williams are not here, but they would support us. I am tired of people fighting us down."

She accused the mayor of opposing everything that was said about the allotment fence.

"You were at the meeting when it was agreed. You heard every single thing and then you ask whet we are doing in L and A. We thrashed it out and then it came to council and then you oppose it. It's not fair," Coun Arnold added.

The meeting accepted the minutes of the F and GP committee.

Cowbridge men bowlers progress in Munro Cup!

IT was a busy week for Cowbridge Bowling Club, with six games played altogether.

The ladies started the week with an away defeat to Bridgend Municipal 45-60, with losses on all three rinks, but all good games.

Scores: Shirley Wilkinson's rink 14-19; Joy Woolward's rink 13-17; and Pauline McAllen's rink 18-24.

The men did better in their Munro Cup game, at home to Llantwit Major, winning 85-67; winning on three of the four rinks.

SCORES

Norman Wilkinson's rink 27-8; Brian Kent's rink, in a really good game, just won 25-24, and Dennis Snelling's rink lost 13-2.

The ladies then had two matches; first in the league away to a strong Barry Athletic team.

They held them to a very deserved draw, with the rink of May Jones, Judy Springett, Kay Edwards and lead Shirley Wilkinson, winning well by 25-12 to draw the match.

Other scores: Joan Bradley 10-19 and Pat Davey 12-16.

In the next game, a Rose Bowl two-rink match away to Victoria Park, they lost 29-37.

Rink scores: Pat Davey's rink lost 11-18, and Joan Bradley's rink only lost by one shot 18-19.

In a league game, away to Ynysybwl, the men lost badly by 64-103, with no rink wins.

***Rink scores*:** David Jones 20-26, Dennis Snelling 15-21, Roger Barwick 11-31, Norman Wilkinson 18-25.

Finally, on the Sunday in a mixed match at home to Cardiff Bus BC, the club won 113-46, with good wins on all four rinks.

***Scores*:** Dennis Snelling 38-6; Joan Bradley 34-11;Pat Davey 18-10 and Judy Springett 23-19.

What a week!

NJW

Rugby legend speaks to Pontfaen Probus Club

THE June meeting of the Pontfaen Probus Club included a talk by former Wales captain Paul Thorburn, who spoke about "My Life in Rugby."

Paul played in the 80s for Neath at full-back and he made his debut for Wales in 1985. In an international career which spanned six years, and gained him 37 caps, he was renowned for his goal-kicking. He amassed more than 300 points for Wales, none more celebrated than the three points against Scotland which he kicked from inside his own half, from a distance of more than 70 yards. It set a world record which stands to this day!

Now the business manager for the Ospreys, Paul commented upon the contrasts of today's professional game to the strict amateur rules under which he played. He recounted how during the 1987 World Cup in New Zealand when Wales finished third, while he and the rest of the Welsh squad were rigidly tied to the amateur ethos, it was clear that the All Blacks and Wallabies had already entered the professional ranks.

That World Cup exposure probably initiated the eventual demands of the top players in the home nations for payment, which then led to the professional era and stemmed, even reversed, the exodus of top union players to rugby league.

Despite his legendary status and obvious success, Paul is modest about his personal contributions and praised the team spirit which abides in the game. He spoke movingly about his captaincy of Wales and entertained the members with many amusing and insightful stories of his experiences at both club and international levels. His very eloquent talk was well received and left members wishing for more.

There will be no club meeting in July as the members and wives enjoy an awayday instead. The next proper meeting will be August 18, with a talk on 'Engineering Miracles'. Prospective members interested in joining should contact the president David Crompton (01446 751490) or secretary Ceredig Lewis (01446 772905).

LTG

Photo exhibit helps to raise funds for Africa

Jane Hutt AM with Hannah Woodward who represented the Brownies and Guides at 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition to support aid for developing nations.

A PHOTO exhibition was organised by Wick and St Brides Major Brownies and Girl Guides to raise funds and awareness of the lives of girls in Liberia, West Africa.

As part of the project, the Brownies and Guides have been taking photos and learning about the difference in their lives and those of their contemporaries in Liberia.

An interested visitor was Vale AM Jane Hutt, who reported: "It was clear from the exhibition how much has been learnt by the young people who took part in this project, to raise their understanding of the value of their lives here in Wales and to compare this with the lives of young girls in Liberia.

"Thanks to the inspiration of the local Brownie and Guide leaders, this project and exhibition will have a lasting influence on their lives.

" It was great to see so many supporting the Brownies and Guides – including parents, friends, teachers and local residents at Wick Village Hall."

NEW HEALTH BOARD CHIEF IS APPOINTED

THE new chief executive of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Local Health Board has been appointed.

Mr David Sissling will take the helm of the new board, which will take over responsibility for the current Abertawe Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust – which runs all the hospitals in an area stretching from Bridgend to Swansea, and also the functions of the old Local Health Boards, which are being scrapped.

There were 22 health boards in Wales which commissioned services from the seven trusts. There is one for Bridgend and another for Cardiff and the Vale – and both will disappear.

The new board will also serve people living in the western Vale, who access health services at the Princess of Wales Hospital

The new boards will be set up this month and will become fully operational from October 1.

Mr Sissling worked in the Merchant Navy before joining the NHS in 1993, under a programme to bring in and develop suitable people from outside the NHS who showed chief executive potential.

He became a chief executive of a major teaching hospital and later worked at health authority and strategic healthy authority level.

From 2006 to 2008, he was Permanent Secretary to the Health and Social Care Authority in Northern Ireland and was programme director for healthcare in London at the time of his appointment.

A spokesman for the Wales NHS said Mr Sissling has particular experience in leading large scale organisational and service changes across the health and social care system and is a very experienced chief executive.

Paul Williams, former chief executive of the Bridgend, Bro Morgannwg and later Abertawe Bro Morgannwg NHS Trusts who is now acting head of the NHS in Wales, reported that the appointments of all six chief executives had been made from a field of very high calibre applicants.

He said: "I believe we have chosen people who have the skills and experience to deliver the organisational changes within the NHS which will ultimately improve patient care and the working environment for staff."

Cowbridge students get helping hand for project

FOR the past four years, David Griffiths, the head of geography at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and students have been supporting the Goedgedacht Trust in South Africa, raising funds and visiting to work on community projects run in rural areas by the trust to help children living in desperate poverty.

ABOVE: Alan Fowles, Kathryn Dyer, David Griffiths, Lady Inkin, Elliot Swallow and Derek Morgan.

This summer, a working party of 34 students, led by Mr Griffiths, will be making another visit to help build a 'safe house' for these children, and pupils were delighted to receive a cheque for £500, presented on behalf of the south Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union, by chairman Derek Morgan and committee member Lady Inkin.

Mr Morgan said: "This is the sixth south Wales school with working links to schools in South Africa to be supported financially by the English-Speaking Union.

"The main aim is to create understanding and international friendship through the English language."

Deputy head boy Elliot Swallow said: "The money donated from the English Speaking Union will make a considerable difference to the lives of the children at the trust, who value education greatly as a way out of poverty.

"The students are really looking forward to the trip to the trust at the end of July, and to taking part in all of the activities planned there.

"These include taking the children ice-skating for the first time, helping to develop a climate change path and painting a safe house where the children can seek refuge when they feel unsafe at home, often as a result of alcohol induced violence between their parents."

He added: "These activities will be funded by the fundraising efforts of the students over the past 18 months, which have included cake sales, sponsored walks and a fashion show."

ABOVE: Deputy head Alan Fowles, head boy Vikram Devalia, head girl Kathryn Dyer and Lady Inkin.

'Committee show great concern' Dyffryn Gardens Friends are alarmed by membership drop

A GARDEN society formed to support and promote the wellbeing of a historic garden is under threat from falling membership.

The Friends of Dyffryn Gardens, which offers its members free access to the gardens during normal opening hours, regular newsletters, guided walks, trips, lectures and free entry to Kew Gardens in London is losing members to the more flexible season ticket scheme offered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The annual general meeting of the Friends (June 3) heard that the council season ticket was selling better than membership to the Friends – even though it was the same price – because it could be taken out at anytime of the year.

Membership of the Friends follows the financial year and runs for one full year from April to March.

Chair of the Friends, Professor David Thomas, said:

'The falling membership is of great concern to the committee. Firstly, we are a victim of the financial climate and secondly, the council scheme, which is similar to ours, is beginning to bite. We have to do what we can to combat it because the council scheme does not offer what we offer – a series of winter talks and summer excursions."

Membership secretary of the Friends, Barbara Hodges, told the AGM that numbers had for the first time fallen to under 300, compared with the 400-strong membership of four years ago.

Prof Thomas gained agreement of the AGM to bring the constitution of the Friends up-to-date, to make its membership scheme more flexible and better able to compete with the council scheme.

The Friends of Dyffryn Garden Society was formed in 1983 to promote the wellbeing of the garden by encouraging interest in it, and to promote understanding and appreciation of horticulture and botany.

The AGM heard that trips during the past year had included outings to Picton Court Gardens and Knightshayes House and Garden.

Combined talks and walks had included a talk about the Penllegare Trust, followed by a visit to Penllegare Valley Woods and a talk by the organiser of the National Garden Scheme, Rosamund Davies, followed by a visit to her garden, Slade Garden, Southerndown.

Forthcoming trips include a visit to Chalfield Manor and the Courts Garden in Wiltshire on Monday, June 29 and a trip to Kew Gardens on Wednesday, August 26.

Dyffryn Project manager for the Vale Council, Gerry Donovan, reported that visitor numbers for the past year had exceeded its target of 45,000 visitors, with just under 49,000 people coming through the gates in spite of the awful weather last summer.

New events had included a dawn chorus event – with the birds in the garden – that had been fully booked. Still to come was a moth night and a bat evening.

She said the next 12 months was an exciting time – with a new head gardener, a new post of walled garden supervisor, and vacancies filled for senior and higher horticulturists.

A walled garden autumn festival would be held in October, to mark the completion of the kitchen gardens section of the walled garden.

She thanked the Friends for their continued support, and for raising the profile of Dyffryn by word of mouth and personal recommendation.

Little Ruby melts WI hearts

NEWS FROM ST HILARY WI

At the beginning of the June meeting, St Hilary members sang Happy Birthday and drank a toast to Elgiva Thomas, who had recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

President Betty Thomas congratulated Elgiva, who has been a loyal WI member for 73 years, and presented her with a gift from members to mark the occasion.

The speaker for the evening was Linda Feagan, from the Dogs' Trust, Bridgend,who was accompanied by Ruby, a very friendly little spaniel.

Ruby had been nursed back to health at the Pen-y-Fai kennels and obviously thought that everyone was her friend!

With the aid of a slide presentation, Linda gave us an interesting talk on the origins of the Dogs' Trust, and an insight into the work it does.

The charity was founded in 1891 as The National Canine Defence League, "'to protect dogs from torture and ill usage."

Funded entirely by donations from members and supporters, NCDL changed its name in 2003 to Dogs' Trust.

There are 17 re-homing centres in U.K., with two more planned in Dublin and Essex. No healthy dog is ever put down - 94 per cent of dogs taken in find new homes.

At Court Colman they have 40 kennels (housing 80 dogs at any one time), a separate whelping area, a large fenced field for exercise and a training barn.

The centre organises school talks and workshops, training classes, fund raising events and sponsored walks throughout the year.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ray Evans and the competition, for an item beginning with 'F', was won by Olive Lewis.

Next month, members will meet at 7pm on July 14 at The Round House, St Hilary.

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Those special dogs who help their deaf owners

NEWS FROM SOUTHERNDOWN WI

THE June meeting of Southerndown WI was a near 'sell-out', perhaps due to the talk 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' – held the possibility of a four-legged friend being present.

However, the speaker was the regional fundraiser for the charity and was unaccompanied!

Marilyn Sydenham was a good speaker, easy to listen to, and told the institute fascinating facts about these invaluable dogs.

The organisation began in 1982 and about 50 dogs, aged six weeks to three years, are trained each year.

These special animals will alert their owners to door bells, smoke, burglar alarms, telephone rings and the many sounds that invade our days – and which those with hearing ability take for granted.

The dogs are easily recognisable by their burgundy jackets.

Marilyn also showed a short DVD.

President Marjorie Drew guided the meeting, encouraging members to peruse their county letter.

There is to be a Link outing in September to Penderyn distillery.

The next monthly meeting is on July 9 in the St Brides Major church hall, at 7.15pm.

In her talk, Norma Glass will further the members' knowledge of 'Jewish customs'.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Memories of the swans

THE recent Guild meeting welcomed the return of Anne Bird, who was accompanied by her husband Paul and assistant Alan.

Members were given the history and origin of their wild life experience at the Barry Swan Rescue Centre, which they ran for 20 years.

During this time, more than 10,000 swans and other birds were rescued.

Anne was called out at all hours, and carried out some very exciting rescues.

Due to several burglaries at the premises, Anne finally had to change her plans and formed Owls 4 U.

Many of the owls she rescued are unable to return to the wild. Some of these beautiful birds were on display and members were allowed to get 'up close up and personal' with Bart, Dai and Asha, and photographs were taken.

At our social studies meeting, members were met at Barry Library by the chief librarian, Sandra Wildsmith, who gave us a conducted tour of the building, and showed us all the various departments.

This tour came about after a previous guild meeting, when Sandra gave a very interesting talk about her life as a librarian in different areas, including the setting up of a library in Cardiff prison.

After the tour, we enjoyed a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

The next guild meeting will be on Monday, July 13, when the speaker will be Nita Dally, and we will also be holding a strawberry cream tea.

'How much did council consultants cost?'

'Public has right to know what money is spent on'

An AM calls for transparency

GEM REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale Council has been blasted by a regional AM for failing to provide the full information on the costs of education consultants it employed.

Leanne Wood, who represents South Wales Central in the Welsh Assembly, said that while disclosing the £46,000 bill for employing two consultants in 2008-09, the council had refused to say how many days each of them was employed for, and what each of them was paid, citing "commercial interests of other parties".

Ms Wood says that in a previous letter in May, the authority had claimed "we do not appear to have the following information: 'the highest daily fee charged by a consultant'".

The Vale Council did name the education consultants as Dewi Jones and Celia Butler, and listed the areas of work they were involved in.

The Vale also spent £36,000 employing 10 consultants in social services, and leisure and public housing services work over the past 12 months.

Ms Wood, who has submitted a number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act, said: "I don't know where the Vale Council has been for the last six weeks or so when the issue of the use of public money has been given such high public profile because of MPs' allowances.

"Openness and transparency is vital when a local authority is spending public money, and I find it concerning that the authority is refusing, under the Freedom of Information Act, to say how many days consultants worked for them, and what the daily rate was.

"Commercial confidentiality is all too commonly used as an excuse.

"The public has a right to know how much the authority is paying for these services – is it £500, £750 or £1,000 a day?

"To suggest in an earlier letter that they do not appear to have information on the highest daily fee charged by a consultant is unbelievable. Do they think people are idiots? Are the council hiding this information because it would be embarrassing?

"Secrecy is unacceptable among public bodies and, as the debate on MPs' expenses has shown, people are not prepared to put up with it."

Leanne Wood said that she would be asking the council to review the decision, and if they continue to refuse to provide it, she will be reporting the authority to the Information Commissioner.

Tim Cousins, information manager for the Vale Council, stated: "All requests for information received by the council have to be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the relevant Code of Practice.

"The Assembly Member made a number of requests in relation to consultants. In response to the initial request, information was provided setting out the total costs of consultants across the authority. Further, it was broken down into service areas and the number in each.

"A further request was received asking for a full breakdown of the education figure. In response, details of the consultants were provided, as was a breakdown of the work they undertook for the council."

Mr Cousin's went on: "In response to this, a further request was received asking for 'some additional information', namely the number of days each of those consultant worked for the council and the total bill submitted by each, detailed separately.

"Where such requests affect the interests of third parties, we have a duty to consult, in accordance with the Code of Practice.

"In this case we consulted, but were unable to secure the positive consent of the third parties in respect of the information sought. Information in relation to their daily rate is clearly commercial information and, accordingly, we were unable to release the information.

"The Assembly Member was advised of this and advised of her right to appeal both internally and to the independent Information Commissioner; to date this has not been exercised.

"The situation is not comparable with MPs' expenses. It relates to private individuals not elected representatives, and remuneration for work undertaken and not expenses. The total for the work was released, as was a breakdown of what they did."

Mr Cousins added: "The council takes its responsibilities under the legislation seriously and in this respect has administered more than 1,000 requests since the Act has been in force.

"In that time there has only been one decision against the council by the regulator, in relation to application of an exemption."

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The urgent message to our young Welsh people is... STAY IN EDUCATION!

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

IT was great to visit the annual Barry College students' exhibition of art, ceramics, textiles and film at the Art Central Gallery Space in King's Square last week, to meet students and admire their work, as they progress through their vocational qualifications in further and higher education.

I also noted the achievements of seven Vale students who have won awards for showing excellence in engineering, as part of the 14-19 learning pathways, providing the opportunity for young people to study vocational courses in engineering at Barry College, with 'industry recognised' qualifications alongside their GCSEs.

On Wednesday, June 24, we celebrated Vocational Qualifications Day (VQ Day) with an event in the Senedd, to showcase the work of students, with awards for the 2009 Vocational Qualification Heroes who have excelled in their vocational achievements.

Wales has led the way in making this a special day in the calendar of events to celebrate success and achievement in education.

In the brochure published by the Welsh Assembly Government on VQ Day, launched by my Deputy, John Griffiths AM, a Barry student, Lauren Furnish, is featured.

She is on track to become a highly-paid chartered accountant at the age of 22 and she has chosen the vocational route to achieve this.

She is working for her Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) qualifications, which she hopes to achieve by 2011, thanks to her work-based learning programme with the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association (VGTA) and Barry College.

John Griffiths said: "Thankfully, and rightly so, vocational qualifications are now achieving the credit they deserve, being valued in their own right and acknowledges as key routes to rewarding careers and higher education."

It is worth noting that in Wales, 46,890 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) have been gained and in addition, 75,190 learners have secured Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQ) through our schools, further education colleges, universities and work based learning arrangements.

You can progress as a result of hard work this year, onwards to the next stage in this route, to a rewarding career and further qualifications.

Where Now?

This leads me to my main message this week to all those who are enjoying a well-earned rest after exams at GCSE, AS and A levels, including the Welsh Baccalaureate.

You will all be receiving your personal copy of the 2009-10 Guide Where Now? as the results come through, with clear guidance about your options.

I have mentioned the Learning Pathways for 14-19-year-olds. To find out more visit www.wales.gov.uk/learningpathways.

There will also be information on vocational routes and the 'Welsh Bac', as well as access to further and higher education, access to jobs, training and apprenticeships.

There is an eight per cent uplift in applications to universities this year, and my statement to the Assembly on Tuesday included our commitment to widening opportunities for access to university, and our commitment to promote world class research in Wales.

We urge our young people to stay in education as we seek to lead Wales out of the recession, with measures to support young people to prevent them from becoming unemployed and to back them if they find themselves in this situation, with the new Youth Guarantee of training and jobs being developed with local authorities and the voluntary sector.

As we celebrate Vocational Qualifications Day, we assert the importance of all routes to educational achievement in Wales - through school, college, work, university and the community - a true commitment to lifelong learning and the satisfaction and reward that can bring for us all.

Come to the fete!

THE 56th Barry District Scout and Guide annual fete, will take place at Romilly Park on Saturday, July 4, with the official opening at 1.15pm.

This year's fete will celebrate 100 years of Sea Scouting and will feature displays from the Welsh Bockers, Barry Kyokushin Karate Club and the Welsh Piping Society, as well as a return of the It's A Knock Out-style competition.

Programmes are now on sale (£1.50 in advance, £2 on the day) from all Scout and Guide groups in the district.

Look out for the recruitment stall near the Arena Podium where volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions regarding Scouting and Guiding.

The annual fete is one of the largest open-air events in the Vale, and all money raised goes directly towards the running of Scouting and Guiding in the local district.

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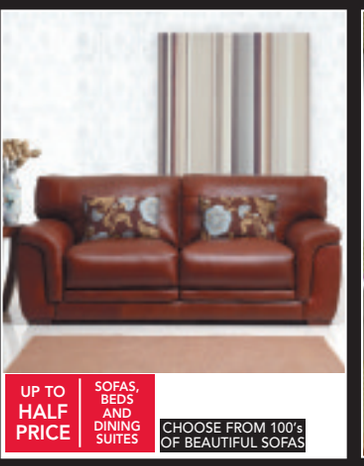

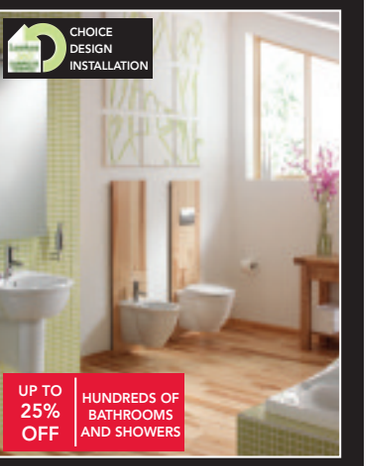

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COUNCILS LAY DOWN SWINE FLU CONTINGENCY PLAN

'Potential for significant increase in deaths if pandemic strikes' –warning

A CONTINGENCY plan has been drawn up in the area to cope with any increased deaths from the Swine Flu pandemic.

The plan, which considers all levels of threat, including a 'worst case scenario', applies to the way in which Coychurch Crematorium will operate and also takes increased demand for burials into account.

The crematorium is jointly operated by the Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Vale councils.

A report to the management committee revealed that an exercise was carried out in April at the time of the outbreak of the flu in Mexico.

All councils in Wales took part in this exercise which was to see how the effects of a pandemic can be mitigated.

Although the current outbreak appears to be less virulent than first expected, the report warns that there is potential for a 'significant increase' in deaths.

The report states that if there is a big additional demand for cremation, Bridgend and Vale Councils may have to set up a body-holding area near to the crematorium.

The management committee may also have to increase cremations to 315 a week, extend the days and hours of operation at the crematorium, reduce the amount of time available for services, and suspend other administrative work until the emergency has ended. The report states that if the crematorium starts to get towards its maximum capacity, cremations from outside the areas of the three councils will be stopped to allow preference to residents within the three areas.

The report says that figures were produced by central government at the time of Avian Flu and it was estimated that out of a population of 132,400 in Bridgend, there would be 2,122 deaths over a 15-week period, including normal deaths.

The estimated peak would be 388 deaths in week six, based on a fatality rate of 2.5 per cent and an attack rate of 50 per cent.

But swine flu appears to be less deadly, so these figures may be reduced.

The National Public Health Service for Wales will be in charge of any pandemic and local hospitals will only be able to admit patients with added complications from the flu virus. The plan assumes that some people will die at home from the disease.

At the moment, there are up to 10 cremations a day, with 30-minute services.

If a pandemic scenario increases the demand to 15 cremations a day in a five-day week, the standby cremator would have to be used on top of the two main ones.

Alternatively, the crematorium would have to operate two seven hour shifts from 8am-3pm and from 3pm-10pm.

If there was a need to have a seven-day working week, a maximum of 315 cremations could take place in a week. Extra external lighting may be required for the car parks at night.

If staff themselves fall ill during the outbreak, the organist would work in the office, with staff from other council departments drafted in to answer phones and type basic information into the computers.

Cleaning staff may also be deployed from outside to clean the chapel and toilets to release crematorium staff for other work.

The report also looks at burials within Bridgend and says that if there was a significant increase in demand, they would be restricted to four cemeteries – Maesteg, Sarn, Laleston and Pencoed.

There may be further restrictions, including a refusal to reopen existing graves, as some of these have to be hand-excavated and a refusal for three-depth graves because of the extra time involved.

The four cemeteries could accommodate up to 60 burials a week, but if extra labour was brought in to extend working hours, there could be 110 burials a week. Extra equipment may have to be hired and external contractors brought to help.

Additional telephone numbers may be brought into use for burial and cremation services to cope with the demand.

Vale MP's expenses can now be viewed online

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

MEMBERS of Parliament hope that the publication on the internet of their expenses for the four years 2004 – 2008 will be the end of the matter.

However, there is so much material on view that the whole debate could drag on for many more months yet.

One national newspaper (The Guardian), faced with half a million pages of expenses to trawl through, has posted them all on the web, and has invited readers to flag up claims that are of interest.

So far, 20,000 readers have logged on. It will be a long time before people start to believe that no stone has been left unturned.

However, in the case of Vale MP John Smith, there are not so many invoices to plough through, because Mr Smith has, throughout the four years, claimed 'round totals' each month for items such as utility bills – rather than submitting his receipts.

Mr Smith is standing down at the next election for health reasons. The rules at the time meant that MPs did not have to submit receipts for items under £250. There was also an allowance of £400 per month for food – again with no requirement to hand in a receipt.

To take a random three-month period (April, May, and June, of 2004), Mr Smith's expenses reveal that he claimed £1,200 for food, £700 for utilities, £300 council tax, £700 for telephone and telecommunications, £700 for cleaning, £700 for service/maintenance, and £700 for repairs/insurance/security.

Jump forward two years to the same period (May, June, July of 2006) and the same categories are still in use, but the amounts are sometimes different.

Food is still £1,200, while utilities are £500, and council tax is £225. Telephones and telecommunications are £500, cleaning has fallen to £500, service/maintenance is now £500 and repairs/insurance/security is also £500.

According to a recent 'league table' Mr Smith has claimed the maximum in food allowances (£4,800 for a year) three years out of four. In 2005/06, he claimed £4,485.48.

MPs argue that the food allowance reflects the cost of eating in the House of Commons, and in London. However, Mr Smith's claims show that he continued to claim that allowance when the House was in recess.

In a typical year, the House has several periods when it is in recess, totalling around three months.

On the web, each MP has published details of three files: the Additional Costs Allowance (ACA); the Incidental Expenses Provision (IEP) and the Communications Allowances (CA).

The details quoted so far in this piece all come from the ACA, which has a '*no receipt required for less than £250*' rule.

The IEP covers, in the main, expenses at the MP's two offices, in Westminster and the constituency. Staff costs are not included. They are published elsewhere (as a total figure) but individual salaries for an MP's employees are confidential.

The rules are different for the IEP, and here all invoices are listed, including £9.32 to a local newsagent – presumably for the paper bill.

The IEP is where the dreaded word 'redacted' is in evidence. Thick black blocks obscure various details. For instance, on page 70 of the 2007/08 IEP, there is an invoice which reveals that Mr Smith's office has a regular 'something' at £2.65 per week.

It must be a pretty unimportant item, but all details are blacked out.

Another example relates to Mr Smith's constituency office in Barry. The address for the office is widely publicised, yet there is a payment on June 1, 2007, to the Vale of Glamorgan CLP for £463.02 rent on a property which can only be his constituency office – but the address has been blacked out.

Mr Smith has, of course, published his annual reports over the years in The GEM and other newspapers. The GEM's invoice is included, but the address has been redacted – although our address here in Cowbridge is not difficult to find.

However, the main criticism of the practice of redaction has been that it can hide the practice of 'flipping' – when an MP changes the designation of his or her first and second home.

This is not a charge that is relevant in Mr Smith's case, as he has always rented a flat in London. He has also, in comparison, with fellow MPs, never been a high spender.

In 2006/07, 564 MPs spent more than he did, while in 2007/08, 295 MPs spent more.

In a statement, Mr John Smith MP told The GEM:

"I frequently stayed in London during recess and election campaigns as I was involved in a number of national campaigns in London. All my claims were within the rules at the time and cleared by the House Authorities.

"The records show that historically I have been one of the lowest claimants of parliamentary expenses. I do not own a second home, have never made extravagant claims or claimed for any luxury goods, and all my personal claims have gone towards the day-to-day cost of working and living in London.

"Because I believe in transparency, the people of the Vale can view on my website ***www.johnsmithmp.co.uk*** *details of my expenses claims in full. I also publish on this website the details of my expenses claims as they are being made."*

Rachel's 'dangly bits of jewellery'

WENVOE WI

ON June 4, due to the community centre being unavailable because of the European Parliament elections, members of Wenvoe WI met instead at St Mary's Church Hall, where Rachel George demonstrated how she makes 'dangly bits of jewellery'.

Her interest in this type of jewellery began when she came across boxes of beads belonging to her grandmother.

After studying art at college, she became even more interested in designing and making fashion jewellery.

She had brought along many examples of her work, some finding their way home with members.

Raffle winner: Vera Tipples.

Eira Jervis has become chairman of Wenvoe Community Council.

The next meeting on July 2 at the Community Centre is for members only – a social evening with strawberries and cream.

There will also be a return visit from Viv Truran with more revelations about her holidays.

What's on in the Vale – IN BRIEF

Llanmihangel strawberry tea

THE annual strawberry tea fair will be held at Plas Llanmihangel, on Sunday, June 28, at 3pm.

Entrance £1, children free. Tour of the house £2. Stalls and teas.

All proceeds in aid of Llanmihangel Church.

Cantemus and Hercules team up for concert in Penarth

ON Sunday, June 29, at 7.30pm, Cantemus Chamber Choir Wales directed by Robert Court, and Ensemble Hercules led by Keith McGowan will perform a programme of works by well known British Tudor composers, including Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Weekes and Welsh composer Thomas Tomkins.

Ensemble Hercules is recognised as one of the country's foremost period instrument groups.

They have worked with Cantemus twice before, most recently during the performance of Monterverdi's *Vespers* in Llandaff Cathedral last November.

At the concert they will perform a series of instrumental works of the period, and will also demonstrate some of their extraordinary instruments.

Cantemus has built a reputation for fine stylish performances of music from Renaissance through to modern.

Tickets for St Augustine's, Penarth (£16, £12 concessions) are available on 02920 619436, or at the door. Further details by email from rgcourt@ntl-world.com.

AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery tomorrow Friday, June 26, between 4pm-6pm at 115 High Street, Barry. No appointment is needed.

Tea party

A STRAWBERRY tea party in aid of Cancer Research UK, will be held at Fontygary Leisure Park, on Saturday (June 27) at 12.30pm-3.30pm. Family fun.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Musical concert

ST CANNA'S Llangan was filled to capacity for the concert, presented by Pontyclun-based The Minnesingers, which took place on Friday, June 19..

The all-male entertainers surpassed all expectations. Their repertoire consisted of Welsh and English popular songs. I thought their version of our own Welsh hymn *Cwm Rhondda* was really excellent.

Prayers were said by our own Rev Canon Peter Raikes.

Hall events

FORTHCOMING events at Llangan St Mary Hill community hall:

Tomorrow (June 26), Bullseye evening, 7.30pm; July 5, fun sports day on Fferm Goch Green, 2pm; July 23, arts and crafts, 2pm-4pm, in the village hall, followed by July 30, Pottery painting, 2pm-4pm.

Llangan school events

SPORTS day is taking place today (June 25).

Summer fair, Saturday, July 4, from 11am (raffle will be drawn at 1pm).

There will be refreshments, a barbecue, cake stall, books and toys, face painting and plant stall.

The school is in need of volunteers on the day.

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DRAMA STUDENTS TAKING CENTRE STAGE AT THE LLANTWIT COMPREHENSIVE

THE drama department at Llantwit Major Comprehensive has been very busy this term and we are delighted with the students achievements.

It has been such an eventful term, with many of our students achieving high levels of success in all areas of the performing arts.

FILM AUDITIONS

ONE highlight in the calendar of events has been the opportunity to appear in a new feature film.

Tornado Films is producing the film provisionally titled *Summertime*.

It is based on ideas from the young people of Wales which were developed in a series of workshops and involves many professionals from the industry, including writers, composers and productions team.

The aim is to produce a musical feature film, using all the creative talents of the young people involved.

Workshops began in 2008 and earlier this year 30 young performers from Llantwit Major Comprehensive were given the opportunity to audition for a professional director, Maxine Evans. They were all recalled to the next round which was quite unusual with Maxine commenting that: "These are exactly the sort of kids we need around on a professional film set."

Many of the aspiring actors have been chosen as featured dancers and extras and the drama department is delighted by their success. Joanne Mallett from year-11 has been cast in a leading role.

DRAMA COLLEGE

SIXTH Form students have been off around the country auditioning for drama colleges that include top establishments in London, Liverpool and Cardiff.

When I first started teaching at Llantwit, drama was seen more as a hobby.

I am delighted to see so many pupils with the drive and ambition to take it a step further and we are now starting to see the success of those that have already found jobs in the theatre after studying at drama college . This is a very exciting time for us.

A number of students are waiting for recalls, but many congratulations to Tom Pritchard in year-13, who had quite a dilemma as he has been accepted at both Rose Bruford and Central School of Speech and Drama in London to study technical theatre.

PLAYWRIGHT VISITS

AS part of the AS level course, students chose to perform *A Night on the Tiles* by Frank Vickery, so imagine how surprised they were when Vickery himself came to the school to help direct their exam piece!

The students were in awe of the playwright and it was an experience they will remember forever.

I was fortunate to have performed in another of Frank's plays years ago when I was acting professionally.

Now that I am a teacher, it was fantastic to be able to pull some strings and invite him to come and see the work the sixth form were doing."

It was nerve-wracking for the students as they were not sure if Frank would appreciate their version of his play, but luckily he was delighted.

He also watched some other groups perform and was very complimentary saying to one amazed young actor: *"I can't offer you any advice as you have it all there. There is no doubt in my mind that you have it all.*

"I can't tell you how impressed I was. I'm so sure that if you wanted to pursue a career in acting you have all the skills to start."

This was just the boost the year-12 drama students needed before their practical exam which and all the class achieved a high standard both as actors and technically. Year-11 and year-13 were also commended by external examiners for their performance exams.

With the restructuring of both the A Level and GCSE specifications, it is quite stressful putting all these practical exams together.

We work hours after school and at weekends, setting up the space for the exam. However, it is well worth it when the students achieve the high grades that they deserve.

YOUTH THEATRE

FOUR students from Llantwit Major Comprehensive attended auditions for The National Youth Theatre of Wales.

Alastair Gray and Elliott Pritchard were both accepted last year and so were able to offer words of encouragement and advice to Ben Webster and Tom Pritchard who applied for the first time.

The National Youth Theatre accept only the cream of Welsh acting/technical talent every year.

Having one student to represent the school is an honour, but having four is quite impressive and all the boys are looking forward to spending the summer break touring Wales with the production.

WE WILL ROCK YOU!

OVER 150 students sang and danced their socks off recently in a grand 'rehearsalathon' to raise funds for the Llantwit Major school's production of *We Will Rock You*. The show runs from July 6-9 and tickets are selling fast. *Telephone 01446 793301.*

Report by KAY SMITH (Head of drama)

Cowbridge school reaches junior cricket final... AND WINS IT!

ABOVE: The pupils, pictured here showing off the fruits of their victory, will now go on to represent South Wales at the Swalcec Stadium.

PUPILS at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg were thrilled with the result of the Primary Vale cricket competition last week.

The annual competition is a prestigious event, with over 20 teams competing.

Held at the Athletics ground in Penarth, the children played as a team, resulting in them reaching the final against Llangan school.

Both teams played extremely well but Ysgol Iolo managed to crown the competition with an impressive win.

Physical education leader, Mr Alun Roberts said: "I admired the children's professionalism and attitude, Cai Evans (captain) and all the players were encouraged to work together as part of a team.

"I would also like to thank all the parents for all their support."

The team goes on to represent the Vale of Glamorgan in the South Wales finals at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff.

DE

Almost a clean sweep for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg at the Urdd Eisteddfod

PUPILS at Bro Morgannwg competed in a staggering total of 22 competitions at the Urdd National Eisteddfod during Whitsun half term, following their astonishing display at the regional eisteddfod against Glantaf and Plasmawr.

It was almost a clean sweep of events and the following went forward to compete on the national stage of the Wales Millennium Centre.

RESULTS

Folk song solo under-19: second, Ellen Williams. Girls' solo under-19: third, Ffion Perrett. Cerdd Dant Duet under-19: third, Ellen and Lisa Williams. Duet under-19: first, Ellen and Lisa Williams. Recitation group under-19: third Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Folk dance under-19: third Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Harp Solo under-19: third Martha Holyman. Musical duet under-10, third, Martha Holyman and Megan Morris.

ABOVE: Recitation group under-19: third, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

ABOVE: Ellen Williams.

ABOVE: Ffion Perrett.

ABOVE: Ellen and Lisa Williams.

ABOVE: Martha Holyman.

BACK FROM THE DEAD! IAN THANKS EMERGENCY STAFF WHO SAVED HIM

A BUILDER from Barry, brought back to life an incredible 12 times, has been reunited with the "heroic" Welsh Ambulance Service staff who saved him.

The three emergency staff fought for an hour to save 35-year-old Ian Burston after he suffered a massive heart attack at his girlfriend's home.

And now the father of two from Barry has had the chance to thank them in person, when they visited him as he recovers from his ordeal.

The incident happened at about 8am, on April 15, when Mr Burston collapsed at his girlfriend's home after feeling unwell on his way to work.

Ambulance crew Adrian Cook and Steve Jones were on the scene within a minute, closely followed by paramedic Gareth Williams in a rapid response vehicle.

Gareth, from Barry, a paramedic for 23 years, said: "He's a very, very lucky boy. The crew were there very quickly and began treatment immediately.

"He was in cardiac arrest when they got there and he was in and out of cardiac arrest for 30 minutes. He was flatlining.

"We shocked him 12 times and gave him the appropriate drugs, but to begin with, there was no shockable rhythm and we had to work at him with CPR – cardio-pulmonary resuscitation - and oxygen before we could shock him.

"We'd get his heart going and then it would go into fibrillation and we'd have to shock him again.

"You do get people back, but 12 times is pretty incredible. To all intents and purposes he was dead, so it's a nice outcome. I've done a few, but none quite like this!"

Ambulance technician Adrian Cook added: "They don't happen like this very often.

"This was a 35-year-old fit and healthy man with no history of heart trouble and he was clinically dead for half an hour – and now he's made a full recovery – that's amazing."

Mr Burston was taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, where he had a stent, a tiny tube to support an artery in the heart, fitted during a two-week stay.

He is now recovering well at home in Burlington Street, Barry, and said: "I feel as good as new now, although I still can't drive – but if the ambulance team hadn't arrived so soon, I would be brain-damaged or dead.

"I know I wouldn't have been waking up at all if it weren't for the work they did on me."

Ian's father Dave added: "His girlfriend phoned the ambulance and they were there so fast – well before me and I was there within five minutes.

"They worked on him for over an hour on the floor, and while they normally only resuscitate three times, they kept trying and trying.

"They had the defibrillators out – thinking back it was horrible, but they were so professional. They didn't give up.

"For us, these people are heroes. It is a hard job they have got, and they go over and above the call of duty.

"I am sure we are not the only family they have made a big difference to. Heroic is the only word to describe them."

Ian added: "I had left to go to work, but I was feeling sick -– so I went back home and collapsed on the floor in my girlfriend's kitchen.

"She phoned 999, but I can't really remember what happened – I was told I had nearly died, but all I remember is waking up in hospital.

"It was probably worse for everyone else at the time.

"But I am feeling much better. I can't drive or go back to work just yet, but I have been told that I will make a full recovery, thanks to the Barry crew.

"They have even been to visit me. I couldn't have asked for more.

"We are lucky to have them in our town!"

Pictured with heart attack survivor Ian Burston, second left, are paramedic Gareth Williams and ambulance technicians Adrian Cook and Stephen Railton-Jones.

All change at the Inner Wheel...

THE retiring president of Barry Inner Wheel, Judith Hunt, held a luncheon at her home, which was well supported by members and friends.

The proceeds were donated to her chosen charity, the 'Christian Lewis Trust'.

The new president is Tina Evans, of Peterston-super-Ely, with Jean Lewis, secretary, and Beth Longley, treasurer.

Maendy YFC barn dance

THE Maendy YFC annual barn dance is taking place this Saturday, June 27, at Windmill Farm, Llansannor.

Doors open at 8pm and admission is £5 per person. The serving of alcohol is strictly for those aged over 18, the bar staff will request ID if appropriate.

For more information, contact club chairman Stacey Thomas on 07935 585041.

Last Friday, (June 19) saw Glamorgan YFC celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organisation in this area.

This was marked with a dinner and dance at City Hall in Cardiff.

Past and present members, along with faithful supporters, enjoyed an evening of fine food and entertainment.

Don't forget to keep up to date with Maendy YFC news and events by logging onto www.maendy.btik.com.

Evening out for Llanharry WI

THE June meeting is traditionally an evening out. This year, members enjoyed a relaxing trip around Cardiff Bay by road, rail and boat. The weather was glorious and a wonderful time was had by all.

On June 16 members were treated to a fashion show organised by Bon Marche, Bridgend. We were joined by seven members from Llanblethian WI one of our link institutes. Our models were Rita Butt, Ann Lewis, Doreen Jobbins and Margaret Howells, who professionally showed off the wide variety of clothes.

The next meeting is on July 7 when a talk will be given about cheese.

JR

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News in and out of class at St David's Church in Wales school, Colwinston

ABOVE: Nia and William of year-4 were preparing food.

Pupils are taking care of their environment

PUPILS at St David's Church-in-Wales Primary School, Colwinston, recently celebrated World Environment Day with a host of activities.

The day was organised by teacher Leah Croke, and members – adults and pupils –of the Eco and Fairtrade committees.

Parents and villagers supported the day by buying plants, books, Fairtrade products and fruit kebabs from the stalls – which raised almost £400.

Each class presented a workshop concerned with recycling, solar cooking, water conservation, or litter picking in the village.

ABOVE: Grown-up helpers Felicity, Caroline and Jess were preparing fruit kebabs.

CAPTAIN JOE STARS FOR WALES

ABOVE:
Year-6 pupil Joe Davies recently captained the Welsh under-11 rugby team. The school believes this is the first time that a Vale pupil has been awarded the honour. Joe is pictured (above) with governor Geoff Bates and headteacher Nigel Kinsey.

ABOVE: Face painting was very popular.

Transforming a wheelbarrow!

RIGHT and BELOW: St David's Colwinston were the winners of their category when year-2 pupils decorated a wheelbarrow for the RHS Horticultural Show in Cardiff witha peacock theme.
The pupils are pictured with their teacher, Kim Lewis, classroom assistant Gemma Carter, and school caretaker Robert Thomas.
The prize was £100 from Legal and General,.
Three pupils, James, Zoe and Imogen, are pictured (below) at the cheque presentation ceremony.

PICNIC TIME FOR (THE PUPILS') TEDDY BEARS!

ABOVE: The reception class at St David's Primary recently brought their teddies to school for a picnic on a sunny day!

Thank you to all the businesses advertising on this page. We wish everyone an enjoyable day.

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Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2009
Mae Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Emlyn Williams, yn falch o gael cefnogi Gwyl Sgowtiaid a Geidiau'r Barri 2009 ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant iddi.

Festival highlights talented young musicians in the area

ABOVE: So, what is the collective noun for a group of harps? The GEM was surprised to find that, according to Wiktionary, it is a 'twangle'!

THE Ewenny Arts Festival is presenting Sound of Summer, as part of the Third Annual Youth Festival.

The first festival concert is to be held at Ewenny Priory Church tomorrow(Friday, June 26) at 7pm.

The concert will feature St David's Church in Wales school choir; St Brides Major Church in Wales school choir; Tjodalyng Skolekorps school band from Norway; and talented local young pianists Matthew Reynolds and Honor Wainwright.

Also appearing will be Rotary Young Musician of the Year winner, cellist Ben Tarlton; and Celtic harp ensemble 'Alaw y Telynau' ('Harmonious Harps').

'Alaw y Telynau' ('Harmonious Harps') is an ensemble of 10 young girls from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and one boy, Ioan Wardhaugh, from Llangan Primary School.

A spokeswoman said: "The last two youth festivals have been a great success and this looks to be another wonderful evening showing off some of the best talent in the Vale."

Tickets £5 and are available on the door or in advance from Ewenny Pottery 01656 653020, Helen 01656 667047 or Mari 01656 664105.

What is that Buzz in the local classrooms?

AN exciting new Spelling Bee adventure has been launched in local schools by Barry Comprehensive.

Teams of three pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 from Stanwell, St Cyres Comprehensive, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, as well as Barry Comprehensive, are competing in a series of heats at each of the schools.

The pupils are asked to spell 10 words during each heat The final, to be held on July 8, will determine the overall winning spelling school, and an individual winning pupil from each of the three year groups.

The first of these events took place on Wednesday, June 10, at Barry Comprehensive, and all pupils displayed excellent spelling skills, with high scores being awarded to all.

In the lead so far for year-7 is Barry Comprehensive with 30/30; for year-8, Stanwell Comprehensive lead with 30/30; and for year-9, joint leaders are Stanwell Comprehensive and St Cyres Comprehensive.

The scores will be accumulated as the heats progress, and schools will enter the final on July 8 with an individual score out of 40 and a team score out of 120.

Good luck, spellers!

AC

Year-8 spellers concentrate as the competition progresses.

LEFT: Year-9 spellers during the first heat at Barry Comprehensive.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Notes on remembering the computing basics

I REMEMBER some years ago, being fascinated by a skiing statistic...It was along the lines that a skier had a one in 16 chance of breaking a limb on his first skiing holiday.

After several years of acquiring the relevant skills, his chances of breaking a limb on a skiing holiday increased to one in four!

The logic was explained thus: as a beginner, he would have lots of falls but would do himself no serious damage because his speed was so slow.

However, after years of improvement, his speed increased to the point that any single accident was likely to break a limb.

In the computing world, there are similar stories indicating that being more skillful doesn't mean that you are less likely to make a mistake. The extra skill often gives rise to the pride of overconfidence before the inevitable fall.

I once had a colleague who was in charge of a large database that was constantly being updated (by a part-timer inputting data three days a week).

When he told me that the system had crashed I sympathised with the extra work involved in re-establishing the database from the back-up files.

He then confessed that the files had not been backed up for three months

And he was the chap who was nagging everybody else to make frequent backups.

It is commonly accepted in the computer world that the only people who do not back up their files regularly are those who have not lost any. Yet.

In the same vein, a friend who was expert in computing was presented with a problem by a novice. He was trying to copy a lot of little files to a floppy disk (remember those?), but the copying kept stalling before all the files were copied, in spite of there being ample room on the floppy.

The expert struggled manfully without success, until he went back to basics and remembered that the root directory of a floppy disk can handle only 64 files or directories.

As there were more than that to be copied, the system could not copy them into the root. However, there is no such restriction on a sub-directory.

The system happily copied all the files into a single sub-directory at the first attempt.

Why am I recalling these examples?

For years I have had no requirement for coloured prints and have been content to enjoy the quality of a black-only (mono) laser printer.

Colour laser printers were expensive and I couldn't justify the cost. Now my mono laser is old and is making warning noises with every print.

I decided that colour laser printers are now within my budget (its cost now less than originally paid for the mono laser!) and took the plunge.

My new piece of kit looked great and produced a superb test print.

The simplest way to test colour printing was to print out a few sample pictures, as I have no variety of colour documents on my computer because I only print in black or grey-scale.

I was surprised when the colour photographs were produced in grey. Experiments showed that the colours were being used to make the greys, because when instructed to print in grey the result was clearly different.

I checked all the installation and set-up instructions carefully, but the printer would print only in grey, even after being told to use the colours.

An email to the suppliers elicited a reply offering instructions on making all the correct settings. The instructions matched precisely what I was already doing.

I went back to the golden rules of computing. One of the rules that I emphasise to people is that computers are NOT intelligent, in spite of the seemingly complex things that they do.

They are capable only of doing *exactly* what they are told to do.

Therefore, I must be telling it to print out in grey, even when it is clearly instructed to use the colours.

To test this theory, I created a Word document using colours.

It printed beautifully without any problem.

Reasoning that the "print in grey" instruction must therefore be in the photo-editing software, I looked through the Page Set Up menu.

Hey presto, I found that (years ago) I had set a requirement to print only in greyscale!

Problem solved; lesson learned; humility restored and hopefully a useful note of warning for others!

Remember the basics – always! **HD**

CHARITY JAZZ IN THE FIELD

AN open air jazz evening is taking place this weekend at Coity – to raise cash for a local charity which gives disabled people the chance to go horse riding.

The Bridgend branch of the Riding for the Disabled Association is holding the event at Longacre Farm, Coity, on Saturday (June 27). The gates open at 6pm, with the music starting at 8pm.

A spokesman said: "It is a fine setting and we are hoping for fine weather. However, we can move everything into the indoor riding school if it's wet ."

He added: "This year's event is part of RDA (Coity) branch's 40th birthday celebrations, and it is dedicated to the late Barbara Ladbrooke who, together with her husband John, founded the group in 1969."

More information can be obtained by visiting http://jazzinthefield.com/index.php

Bogus traders targeting householders – warning

VALE residents are being warned to be 'to be vigilant' as bogus traders are targeting the area.

Claiming to be from 'South Wales Trading Standards', they are contacting consumers who have recently had gardening or outside building work done on their property.

They claim to have a rogue trader in police custody and if the resident pays a cash fee then they will be able to gain compensation on the resident's behalf.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said this week: "Trading Standards do not, under any circumstances, ask residents to pay a fee to recover money from rogue traders and such requests should be reported immediately.

"If you are, approached by such an individual, make a note of their description and where possible the registration and description of the vehicle.

"Pass this information to our Trading Standards departmenton 01446 709105, or contact Consumer Direct Wales on 08454 04 05 06".

Plants fair

ON Sunday, June 28, at 10am-6pm, an unusual plants fair, including specialist nurseries from across Wales and the Borders, is being hosted by Dyffryn Gardens, at St Nicholas.

There is free entry to the plants fair located in the main car park, before the admission point.

For further information, telephone 01446 774036.

'Microchipping pets can avoid distress' – say Conservative AMs

ABOVE: 'Here's one we chipped earlier!'

A CALL has been made for all dog owners to ensure that their pets are microchipped..

Vale Conservative parliamentary candidate Alun Cairns has backed the campaign as part of National Microchipping Month, run by Petlog.

The campaign will be running throughout June and aims to encourage responsible pet ownership, with microchipping their preferred method of permanent pet identification.

Mr Cairns said: "Losing a pet is a very distressing but knowing that they have been microchipped can bring great peace of mind because if they are found your data will be on the register enabling you to be contacted."

'WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!' Does this acting school have most talented group in area?

THE competitive edge is part of modern day society – not just in sport, but also the entertainments industry – and one local performing arts class can boast eight champions in a single class!

The Ferris Entertainment Academy of Performing Arts class which is held in the Conservative Club at Penarth, has an amazing eight Welsh champions in its ranks.

Acting coach Peter Ferris said: "I have been teaching screen acting for more than 23 years, but none of the classes have had such an incredible range of talents in a single room."

In the past, Peter has taught the likes of Martine McCutcheon, Louise Redknapp, Sheree Murphy and Russell Brand, so he knows a thing or two about it takes for someone to succeed in the showbiz world.

Peter said that having so many driven youngsters in one room means they are all highly motivated.

He commented: "Their competitive edge comes out when they are in our classes, and it is incredible how it has encouraged them to get better and better so quickly."

The champions are:

Natalie Stokes, aged 16 from Barry, who is the Welsh Free Ice Dance Champion.

Danielle Evans (15) from Penarth, is the Welsh Compulsory Ice Dance Champion.

Lewis Jenkins (15) from Barry, is the European and British under-16 individual line dance champion, and came second in the World Championships.

Becky Jenkins (10) is the Welsh under-13 individual line dance champion.

Bethan Thorngate (14) and Elise Tyler (14) are both from Barry and were two of the dance crew who won the Welsh Street Dance Championships.

ABOVE: Some of the acting school's champions (pictured above) are Louise Howard, Lewis Jenkins, Luke Waddon, Bethan Thorngate, Natalie Stokes and Elise Taylor.

Louise Howard (14) from Bridgend is a black belt at Karate and won two golds medals at the European Karate Championships. She will soon be representing Wales in New York.

Luke Waddon (13) from Wenvoe, was the winner of the most promising singer category in the Vale 2008.

Peter added: "If there is any other school that has more champions I would like to know about it!"

If you know of a talented group of youngsters who deserve to be recognised please contact The GEM on email ggem@internet-today.co.uk.

Founder tells of the success of ValePlus special needs scheme

THE guest speaker at the June meeting of Soroptimist International (Barry and District) was Melanie Carter of ValePlus.

She is well known to many Soroptimists as she was chosen for the Club's 'Women in the Community' Award in 2003 for her outstanding achievement in setting up ValePlus.

In 2001, Melanie, together with fellow teacher Steve Thomas, gave up their secure jobs as special needs teachers, bought a disused chapel in High Street, Barry (which was financed by Melanie and her husband re-mortgaging their home) and set up their centre which provides educational, social and vocational opportunities for adults with learning and associated problems.

Club members were pleased to be brought up-to- date, learning that over 100 people (with ages ranging from 17 to 61) now attend the courses run by Melanie, Steve and their staff of 12.

They also run an outreach centre in Llantwit Major and their own charity shop, NOVA, also in High Street.

Melanie receives the cheque from president Iris.

ValePlus was chosen as the club's main charity for the year and president Iris Hopkins was delighted to take the opportunity to present Melanie with a cheque for £1,500, part of the proceeds of the excellent musical evening held at Dyffryn earlier in the month.

PUPILS' ORCHESTRA WILL HOLD EVENING SOIREE IN COWBRIDGE

ABOVE: The Primary Cluster Links Orchestra (PCLO) and friends – made up of pupils from local primary schools – is to hold its first 'Evening Soiree' on Tuesday, July 7, at the sixth form hall, Cowbridge Comprehensive School. A spokeswoman for the orchestra said: "The soiree will begin at 7pm, tickets are £2, and members of the public are welcome".

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Music in the Vale finalists at Senedd

LAST Friday, for the fourth year running, Music in the Vale finalists were able to enjoy the accoustics of the Senedd building, Cardiff Bay, at a reception hosted by Jane Hutt, Minister for Education and the Vale Assembly Member.

"I was delighted to host a concert in the Senedd for the 2008 Music in the Vale Young Musicians of the Year, to give them the opportunity to showcase their talents in our landmark building to families, friends and supporters.

"The young singers and instrumentalists competition, held at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry each year, is run by volunteers who are committed to giving opportunities for our talented young musicians in south east Wales to compete and perform to develop their skills and experience.

"I am proud to be associated with Music in the Vale and to congratulate these outstanding young people who performed so beautifully in the Senedd on Friday evening," the AM said.

Secretary Dawn Déchamps said:

"Thanks to Jane Hutt initiating the first reception and offering a performance slot for our finalists, the committee started to work on finding additional performance opportunities throughout the year following the competition. Last week's Senedd concert was actually the third of the four performance opportunities that Music in the Vale have offered their finalists this year.

The fourth free opportunity will be on August 22 (1pm-2pm), on the Glanfa stage in the Wales Millennium Centre.

The next Music in the Vale competition will take place in Barry on November 28 and 29.

For more information, visit the web site: www.musicinthevale.org.uk or contact the Secretary, Music in the Vale, Six Wells Farmhouse, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge, CF71 7PF, (telephone 01446 771318).

RIGHT: Jane Hutt (AM), Megan Morris, Epsie Thompson, Amelia Jones, Jodi Bird, Ben Tarlton, Joy Cornock, Clarke Alonzi, Darcie Lili Hamilton, Rhydian Jenkins, Dawn Déchamps.

Do you have suggestions for future of historic organ?

THE London and South of England Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) has received notice under the terms of their agreement with Barry Town Council that the famous Regal Edmonton 4/16 Christie Theatre Organ has to be removed from the magnificent setting of Barry Memorial Hall.

Since the organ's opening concert on St David's Day 1987, Barry and ATOS have benefited hugely from a long-running series of dances played throughout by David Redfern, plus concerts featuring artists from here and overseas.

Unfortunately, falling audience numbers and the introduction of a board of trustees and a change of hall management requiring higher hire charges, meant ATOS had to suspend concert activity.

We could not present concerts running at a loss for a sustained period.

ATOS have been negotiating with the Memorial Hall trustees with a view to re-start concert activity with their support, and we have spent a considerable time trying to produce a positive outcome.

The 12-month notice for removal has now been served.

All who have been involved in presenting and supporting our events over the years at Barry are warmly thanked by the ATOS Chapter Committee.

It is time therefore to consider a new phase in the life of this historic instrument. I welcome any thoughts on a future home from readers.

Len Rawle, 132 Berry Lane, Chorleywood, Herts, WD3 4BT; ***telephone 01923 720511.***

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Pupils turn out for duck race

THERE was great excitement in Cowbridge, last Saturday (June 20) for the 'Duck for Dad' race, staged for Father's Day by Y Bont Faen School.

The launch into the river by year-4 pupils took place at 12pm on the bridge on the High Street, amid great excitement from the children who had come to cheer on their ducks.

Children from the school, accompanied by mums, dads, grandparents, aunties, uncles and friends, made their way through the park and cheered the ducks along the river bank.

It was a tricky obstacle-filled course and, with any demanding race, there were some stragglers along the way who were all rescued by a year-4 pupil, James, who was responsible for getting in and out of the river for the stranded ducks.

Richard Watson, chairman of the PTA, along with another parent, Dave Sims, leapt in to help James when the number of ducks was overwhelming him!

James even rescued some ducks which had refused to budge after the race had long finished and everyone had gone home. They were numbers 73, 97, 130 and 158!

The ducks made their way slowly along the river towards the finish line, the bridge in Twt Park. Richard, Dave and James then waded in and waited for the ducks to arrive, where all were eventually retrieved.

James was in charge of rescuing lost ducks.

Prizes for the first three ducks to cross the finishing line were kindly donated by Costco, who provided sweets for all the children.

Many families then took advantage of the dry weather for the planned 'Picnic in the Park'.

Thanks go to all those that attended and to all the PTA Members/Volunteers who helped the event run so smoothly.

The event raised more than £185 towards the Y Bont Faen PTA School Fund and I am sure the winning duck will be ready to defend the title next year!

Winning ducks: First, Harry Holtam, second, Lowry Crossman and third, Erin Caddy.

KN

Junior schoolchildren try their hand at pond-dipping

MORE than 60 pupils and teachers from Cadoxton Junior School were invited to East Aberthaw Nature Reserve – as part of Wales Biodiversity Action Week.

The reserve, owned by RWE npower's Aberthaw Power Station, and managed in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of South & East Wales, has a varied habitat – from woodland, grassland, coastal and lagoon areas.

Wildlife Trust volunteers conducted a nature ramble and pond-dipping exercise during the event sponsored by Aberthaw Power Station and supported by Brandon Hire.

ABOVE: Both pupils and teachers had a great day pond-dipping at East Aberthaw Nature Reserve.

Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen wants to meet more parents

Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen is having a cheese and wine evening on Thursday, July 2, for parents interested in learning more about Welsh medium pre-school education.

The evening will be an opportunity to see the new unit behind the leisure centre at the Boardshoard in Cowbridge.

The Cylch Meithrin follows the foundation phase, where children 'learn through play'.

Amanda Boyd (Cylch manager) and her team will be available to answer on enrolment.

The children have had a wonderful term. The garden at the Cylch is coming along and they have had lots of fun in the outside space available. There was even a visit from a baby lamb!

The children have been learning about shapes this term, and spotted many shapes on a trip to Twt park and the Physic Garden.

The children also called in to Holy Cross Church and admired the many shapes and colours in the stained glass windows. There are opportunities to learn everywhere!

Cylch Meithrin Y Bont-faen provides Welsh medium pre-school education for all children from two years.

Contact Amanda Boyd on 01446 776250 for details.

TRACEY SIMPSON

ABOVE: Pupils on gardening duty.

RIGHT: The children at the Physic Garden.

OPEN GARDENS MAKE IT A SUCCESSFUL DAY AT PENMARK VILLAGE

LAST Saturday (June 20) was a great day in Penmark, as it was the second time that the village had taken part in the National Gardens Scheme.

A village spokesman reports:

"This year, there were five gardens open – not bad considering we only have 62 houses (including the pub).

"They all looked beautiful, with some really interesting and unusual plants. As they were all quite different, no-one had a chance to be bored (even those who are not keen gardeners)."

"One of the houses is owned by Andrew Matthews, a well-known local singer, who had collected a group of friends to entertain visitors with popular pieces from various operas.

"In other houses, vistors could get tea, cakes and also buy plants. Judging by the number of people carrying bags of plants round the village, these were particularly popular.

"The ladies of the village had decorated St Mary's Church and many visitors commented on how lovely the flowers looked, and how well they complemented this charming old building.

"The whole effect was perfectly set off by the peals rung by our bell ringers, including John Reynolds, Andrew Ford and Mike Kemp.

"Everyone turned out to support the gardeners, with Andrew Ford and John MacManus leading a team of village children to organise the car parking and managing to avoid any traffic jams, even though we had more cars than last year.

"Mike Kemp drove the minibus, which provided welcome transport from the centre of the village to the outlying gardens at Penmark Place and Sefton Bungalow.

"While they are not far away, Penmark is a bit hilly, especially for the older visitors.

"The Six Bells, our village pub, was busy both providing very welcome drinks and food in the bar and restaurant and at the barbecue on the forecourt.

"The village hall acted as a base for selling tickets but also as a wine bar, and it housed an arts and crafts exhibition, which seemed to be much admired by our visitors.

"As well as all this, the village experienced an outbreak of scarecrows built by the children and, it is rumoured, by some of the grown ups as well.

"A rather unseasonable Santa Claus was delivering presents which, it appeared, were the target of a burglar.

"A fox was resting in one garden, while a mummy and a headless ghost were also observed relaxing near the hall."

He concluded: "Altogether, it was a successful and enjoyable day which raised £2,750 for the National Gardens Scheme charities.

"Thanks go to the brave people who opened their gardens, and for the support they received from nearly all the rest of the village."

GD

ABOVE: Mr Fox takes a rest.

ABOVE: Plants on sale at Gileston House.

ABOVE: The gardens at Penmark Place.

Group aim to end use of plastic bags

LEFT: Penarth resident Margaret McMillan with a Vale Council jute bag.

A NEW 'green' group, campaigning against plastic carrier bags, has been backed by the Vale Council.

Penarth-based 'Gwyrddio Penarth Greening' (GPG) wants residents and businesses to become more aware of the environmental cost of using plastic bags by looking at alternatives such as reusable jute bags.

Council waste awareness officer Vicky Gowin recently took to the streets of Penarth with Gwyrddio Penarth Greening's chair, Tricia Griffiths, and their plastic bag awareness project leader, Alison Norris, to speak to local residents and retailers.

Vicky said: "As well as being a very visible form of littering, particularly across parks and open spaces, plastic bags can sometimes take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

"The GPG plastic bag project in Penarth aims to raise awareness about this waste issue by reducing the need to use plastic bags, encouraging re-use where they do exist, and promoting alternative options."

GPG will take the message throughout the Vale this summer by conducting retailer questionnaires and attending local events such as the Penarth Festival in July.

Get more mobile by 'extending yourself'

ELDERLY residents from the Communities First areas have been keeping themselves fit – by taking part in locally run 'Extended' classes.

Extend provides recreational movement for men and women over 60, and for less able people of all ages.

The classes, led by experienced tutor Marianne Harman, enable people with differing abilities to work out their bodies to music in a fun way.

The classes aim to promote health, increase mobility and independence, improve strength, coordination and balance and to counteract loneliness and isolation, thereby enhancing the person's quality of life.

The sessions cost £2 and will run at the Children's Centre (Ramsay Road, Gibbonsdown) on September 4, October 2, November 6 and December 4.

Songs and arias for a summer afternoon

The South Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) is holding a 'picnic and musical interlude' at St Donat's Castle, from 3pm to 6pm on Sunday, July 5.

Performing will be soprano Charlotte Ellett, tenor Noel Hernandez and accompanist Sharon Richards – all from the Welsh National Opera.

Members of the Dennis O'Neill International Academy of Voice will perform, and non members of the ESU are welcome.

For further information, contact Derek Morgan on 01656 669129, or email derekmorgan@admorgan.fsnet.co.uk

Cancer Research UK fundraiser

ON Saturday, June 27, at 12.30pm-3.30pm, a strawberry tea party in aid of Breast Cancer and Cancer Research UK, will be held in the main front field of Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose.

Contact 01446 713639 for full details.

VALE PACT MEETINGS

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, leisure centre, June 30, 7pm.
ST BRIDES PACT, village church hall, July 1, 6pm.
BUTTRILLS PACT, Gladstone Primary School, July 1, 7pm.
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, July 1, 6pm.
PLYMOUTH PACT, Paget Rooms, Penarth, July 1, 7pm.
WENVOE coffee and chat meeting, Wenvoe Arms, July 2, 11am.
COWBRIDGE coffee and chat meeting, White Lion, Ystradowen, July 2, 11.30am.
CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, July 2, 7pm.
DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Hall, July 6, 7pm.
LLANDOUGH PACT, Memorial Hall, July 8, 7pm.

Cats adoption centre sends out urgent SOS

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre, which is currently caring for 230 cats, has made a desperate plea for local residents to provide caring homes.

Manager Sue Dobbs said: "The Bridgend centre is bursting at the seams with many loving cats and kittens requiring a home. Some of the adult cats have been at the centre for several months and are in desperate need of a home.

"The centre faces a difficult time every kitten season, but this year is worse than normal. As well as looking after the 100 + cats already in our care, we have also taken in more than 100 unwanted and abandoned kittens, as a result of unneutered cats breeding in the warmer weather, and we're expecting many more before summer is over."

One of the cats requiring a home is Felix, a big male cat with a friendly character.

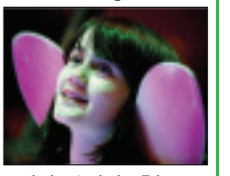
He is one of a number of cats who have been at the centre five months or longer.

Contact the centre on 01656 724396.

Another fantastic competition exclusively for GEM readers in conjunction with St David's Hall

Brian Blessed, narrator of the Children's Proms

THE WELSH PROMS
Cardiff 9th - 25th July 2009



The Welsh Proms is one of the most thrilling events of Cardiff's artistic calendar and a highlight of the Cardiff Festival. For twenty-four years they have been conducted by their Artistic Director, Owain Arwel Hughes CBE who brings to them a combination of wonderful music-making and a festive party atmosphere, flowing through their home at St David's Hall, Cardiff, the National Concert Hall of Wales.

The 2009 Welsh Proms have nineteen events through a packed two weeks in which prestigious orchestral concerts rub shoulders with informal daytime events by talented younger musicians and an exciting new fringe programme of non-classical concerts.

www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk

Win a family ticket to this year's Children's Prom.
To enter simply answer the following question:
Which part of the world do cowboys famously come from?

a) The Naughty North. b) The Wild West. c) The Silly South

Please e-mail your answer along with your name, address, and telephone number to:
sdhpress@cardiff.gov.uk * no later than the 10 July 2009.

By supplying your contact details you agree to be stored on St David's Hall database and agree to be contacted by St David's Hall for marketing purposes. If you do not wish to be contacted by St David's Hall please state in your e-mail entry, however all entries must be accompanied by the relevant contact details in order to notify the winners.

'OUT OF TOWN' this Summer

Talbot Green, Pontyclun and Llantrisant areas...

Little town that has it all – plus a strong community spirit...

PONTYCLUN is one of those little towns which seem to have it all... It has a variety of shops and services and can meet just about every need of its residents – with the advantage of a great community spirit.

Most of the shops are locally owned and offer a level of personal service to their customers which is missing from the large shops in bigger towns and cities.

And with the credit crunch starting to bite, many shoppers have gone back to basics. They are buying fresh food from the small shops in places like Pontyclun and avoiding the larger stores where they would be tempted to buy more luxurious items which they can ill afford.

Pontyclun has a nice variety of fresh food shops –butchers, green grocers, delicatessen, bakery and a couple of grocery shops.

There is also a florist, two chemists, a clothes shops, a bridal shop, a children's shop and other business offering services ranging from security, financial services, banks and legal advice, to an ironing service, hair and beauty, nails and even a vet!

... And when you have finished, there are a couple of coffee shops on hand as well as pubs, a bistro and take-aways offering meals.

One of the focal points of the community is Pontyclun Community Shop which offers people excellent value for money – as well as a place to meet and catch up on local news.

Manageress Vanessa Pullman said that despite reports from some charities about a drop in the number of items being donated, there was a steady flow of goods into their shop: "We have plenty of things for sale and more coming in all the time. We get excellent support from the community."

More and more people are looking for a bargain in these difficult times and charity shops like this give people a chance to make their money go further.

"We have our regular customers who enjoy bargain hunting and we also have others who pop in occasionally but we can always offer them plenty of choice at bargain prices."

Linda Colley of the Flower Pot said that Pontyclun had a distinctive community with strong community spirit.

"People like shopping in a place where the shops are owned by local people who know their customers and who offer high levels of service. People can get just about everything they need in Pontyclun and it is so much easier than travelling to larger towns where it is often difficult or expensive to park."

Her own shop has been in the town for 30 years – she has worked in it for 15 and owned it for five.

"The town has grown over the years with lots of new houses being built but it still retains its homely atmosphere. Shopping in Pontyclun is an enjoyable experience," she added.

Although Rhondda Cynon Taff Council has just imposed car parking charges in one of the town's car parks, traders point out that shoppers can still park for free at the other car park and there is no need to pay.

Butcher Ken is putting Pontyclun on royal map!

A MASTER butcher who has spent almost 70 years in the trade has been invited to Buckingham Palace to attend a garden party.

Ken Williams, who has a shop in Pontyclun, is looking forward to the trip in July.

"It was a huge surprise when the invitation arrived," he said. "Somebody contacted the Lord Lieutenant and that's how the invitation was arranged. I will be going with my son Rhys."

Mr Williams joined his father Len in the family butchery business in Llanharan when he left school in 1940 at the age of 14.

"Meat rationing came into force and it was a very difficult time to be a butcher," he recalled. "We could not waste anything – we had to make the meat go as far as we could so that everybody had something.

"We used to sell a lot of rabbits in those days – they were not rationed and people used to have them to supplement the meat ration."

Ken Williams is off to Buckingham Palace.

Mr Williams' father died at the age of 44 and it fell to him then to take over the business with his mother.

"My two sisters were in college and I was the family's main breadwinner," he explained. "I was originally called up for the army but because of the situation at home, I was sent instead to the pit as a Bevin boy. I was working at Llanharan Colliery and used to work nights.

"I would then come home, snatch a few hours sleep and then go into the shop. It was a busy time."

Mr Williams' mother Margaret worked in the shop along with his uncle Frank. His mother lived to be 101 – and was a widow for 60 years.

Mr Williams' family came originally from Abercynon, where his grandfather had a butchers' shop.

"My grandfather and my four uncles were all butchers as well as my father," he said.

"I was born in Trealaw, which is where my mother was from, but we came to Llanharan when my father opened the shop."

The shop in Llanharan closed some years ago, but Mr Williams came to Pontyclun 16 years ago to help out at the shop and then took it over. He now runs it on his own.

"My wife Marjorie died last year after 57 years of marriage, so I am glad to have the company of my customers. They are a great crowd and I enjoy coming to work. I have no plans to retire at the moment because my health is good."

Mr Williams, who is 83, lives in Llanharan and has two sons, four grand-daughters, one grandson and three great grand-daughters.

Ken's Family Butcher
Welsh Food Hygiene and Cleanliness Award
Best quality home killed fresh Beef.
Lamb, Pork and fresh farm poultry.
68 years of serving the community.
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Order your..
Fresh farm Turkeys, Chickens, Geese & Ducks!

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The Charity Shop for the connoisseur
The shop is the venture of the parish of Pontyclun with Talygarn. We welcome customers and donations. We are willing to help other parishes looking at setting up similar projects.
★ High quality clothing
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Tel: 01443 222444
We collect and deliver

Extra day in week for Giles Gallery adult art classes

GILES GALLERY is adding another day for adult art classes, as it is reaching capacity on Thursdays and Saturdays.

A new slot starts on Wednesday afternoon, July 22, for five weeks.

Our ever popular Kids Club will also be returning during the summer holidays, on Fridays (10.30am-12.30pm). Please contact for details and bookings.

We have enriched our growing arts and craft supplies also, and now carry a range of amazingly-priced sable brush collections, as well as budget collections and styles.

...And a quick reminder that we now cater for jewellery and card crafters...*So, feeling creative? Pay us a visit! 1 Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun; telephone 01443 228638.*

Giles Gallery
Art and Crafts
Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Paintings
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Jewellery - Textiles
Bespoke Framing
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For more information contact Beth Giles Owner/Manager
1 Cerdin Avenue
Pontyclun
CF72 9ER
(Behind Spar)
Tel: 01443 228638
Mob: 07879 035921
www.gilesgallery.co.uk
bethgilesgallery@yahoo.co.uk

John Hughes, the family butchers

John Hughes is a traditionally-run family butchers, situated on Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

It has achieved meat products gold awards, including one for traditional pork sausage, pork garlic and leek sausage and beefburgers, steak pies – and a silver award for steak and kidney pies.

All these products are among a wide variety made on a regular basis at the locally-run butchers.

Telephone 01443 225225.

JOHN HUGHES
Award Winning Butchers
Pontyclun
Best Welsh Beef & Lamb – Vale Reared
Selection of Quality Meats & Home-Made Sausages
Popular Barbecue Season:-
Variety of Burgers, seasoned meats including Chinese Chicken, Chicken Kebabs, Steak Kebabs & more!
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New Season Lamb
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31 Cowbridge Road, **PONTYCLUN**

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E: info@tmkaccounts.co.uk

A passion for good food...

WE are pleased to announce the opening of The Delicatessen, located at 24 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

The shop opened on Saturday, June 20, and has received a very warm welcome from both local residents and businesses alike.

From a personal view, Jayne Watts also has a great fondness of the village, having lived there for six years.

Jayne has a wealth of experience in the catering business, and this is combined with a passion for local produce and good home cooked food.

The shop offers a fantastic variety of produce ranging from cheeses to salamis, homemade freezer meals, cakes to desserts.

The shop will also be able to cater for any customer occasion.

If you are passing, please feel free to come in and have a browse. We look forward to seeing you; call 01443 225579.

NOW OPEN
The delicatessen
24 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun CF72 9EE
Local produce

Cheeses *Salamis*
Homemade freezer meals
Cakes & Desserts
Call Jayne on 01443 225 579
For all your general/special occasion catering solutions

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What's On and Summer Leisure

Local singers preparing to 'Rock' Memorial Hall

RIGHT: Local musician Dorothy Connell with the composer of 'Rock' Roger Jones.

SINGERS from choirs throughout the Vale will be taking part in a special performance of the musical *Rock* tomorrow (Friday, June 26) which tells the story of what happened to St Peter – the rock on which Jesus built the Christian church.

Composer Roger Jones tours with the musical throughout the UK and this week it is the turn of the Memorial Hall in Barry.

'Rock' has a small touring company of lead singers and actors, but the choir is recruited locally. It gives amateur singers an opportunity to perform in a large scale production.

The Barry performance is one of only two Welsh venues in the four tours that have so far taken place to 38 halls across the UK.

The choir plays a vital role as the people of the city and highlighting elements of the narrative.

Barry musician Dorothy Connell has helped to co-ordinate the event, with local singers rehearsing for the big day at venues throughout the Vale.

Tickets are available from Barry Memorial Hall Theatre box office; tel 01446 738622.

Oklahoma is riding to town with the Billboard Ensemble

YEE HAA! Dust off your cowboy hat and polish your boots because *Oklahoma* is coming to town!

BillBoard Ensemble is staging this fabulous Rogers and Hammerstein musical in Barry's Memorial Hall Theatre from Wednesday, July 29, to Saturday, August 1, at 7.30pm.

BillBoard have given audiences entertaining shows such as *Me and My Girl, Sweet Charity* and *Copacabana* since its formation in 1996.

The shows have been performed with professionalism, and have been packed with glamorous costumes and detailed sets.

Tickets for Oklahoma, will be available next week from the 'box offices' at Sew Simple, Holton Road, Barry and A & A Dancewear, Park Crescent, Barry, and are priced at £9 and £8 and the balcony is available for all performances.

For further information telephone Barry 401822 / 400055.

Local artists' display is praised by the Vale AM

VALE AM Jane Hutt visited the Canon Hill Studio Space 'Open Studios' at the end of a week-long exhibition by local artists.

"The Open Studios provide premises for a vibrant community of potters, print makers, painters, sculptors and the exhibition on display over the bank holiday week was inspirational," she commented.

RIGHT: Jane Hutt AM with Glyn Pooley and Maurice Carey.

Barry sculptor creates dragon for school pupils

RIGHT: This four foot Welsh dragon cast in resin/glass fibre, was created by Barry sculptor Peter Ainty for Graig Y Rhocca Junior School, Caerphilly, at the request of the pupils.

TY HAFAN LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 571.

● **£2000:** 756230. ● **£500:** 719798. ● **£100:** 700355. ● **£50:** 639648. ● **£10:** 628008, 437300, 254285, 473418, 715937, 838287, 188604, 205867, 273687, 254653, 104008, 783122, 412179, 826692, 512049, 524692, 404367, 508663, 596765, 753506.

. ● **£5:** 462042, 266396, 439447, 495771, 237670, 627465, 613650, 521910, 378964, 607822, 278506, 800641, 546450, 640818, 649134, 177621, 618623, 357028, 608297, 479558, 895065, 159659, 538174, 886442, 131546, 843475, 817304, 213707, 793047, 851439.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

What's On and Summer Leisure

Robots don't transform into a great film epic!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

IT has often been the prerogative of the major film studios to make their biggest films more 'toy-friendly'.

Not content with emptying parents wallets at the cinema, they want them to be emptied at the nearest toy shop as well.

Joel Schumacher once claimed that this was one of the reasons his *Batman & Robin* sank like it did; there was no room for reality in a film designed to sell toys.

However, it can work the other way around as well, best-selling toys providing studios with the opportunity to make money from an existing fan base. This was all too apparent with 2007's *Transformers*, a film based around the robots in disguise that was a monumental success.

Its sequel was assured the moment the first went into production, and hits screens now under the moniker *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*.

Set two years after events in the original, it sees Sam (Shia LaBeouf) preparing to go to college, while the Autobots, led by Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen), have joined forces with the military to capture the remaining Decepticons on earth.

However, when Sam finds a shard of the all spark from the last film, it reveals ancient information that will assist the Decepticons and the evil Fallen (voiced by Tony Todd) in coming back to earth and taking it over...

The general rule when it comes to sequels is 'bigger and better', often resulting in an over-cooked end product that pales in comparison to the first one.

There are exceptions to the rule (*X2, The Dark Knight, Terminator 2*) but by and large, the majority of sequels don't live up to the expectation.

It is a problem that afflicts *Revenge of the Fallen*, as while it most certainly is bigger than its predecessor, it most certainly isn't better.

Having delivered so superbly with the first film, here director Michael Bay lets loose his wildest imagination, which results in some jaw-dropping superb action, and mind-numbingly awful moments. It's fair to say that the film runs the gamut of sublime to ridiculous with consummate ease.

Bay is a director easy to lampoon, his films are always glossy, drenched with testosterone and sunset skies, and while technically and visually superb, don't always satisfy in the way you hope.

When he's good, though, he's very good, and there is plenty of that in evidence here. Allied with the excellent effects work displayed, Bay shows a distinct lack of subtlety in blowing up as much as he can get his hands on as the robots fight their way through cities and forests, but it works as that's ultimately what you want from the film.

Bay has perfected the notion of popcorn spectacle, and ramps it up suitably here, delivering a film that far exceeds the scope of the first, with all manner of robots on show.

However, Bay's strength is also his achilles heel, and while the spectacle has increased, so has the reliance on these somewhat overblown action sequences.

At 150 minutes, the film is hardly lean and taut, and the robotic smackdowns lose their lustre when wheeled out for the twentieth time.

It is a case of overegging an already rather sumptuous pudding, and while the success of the last film obviously gave Bay a degree of carte blanche to do as he saw fit, a little bit of temperance would have gone a long way.

On the human side of things, the cast are very much secondary to the robots in terms of action, but are front and centre in terms of plot. Luckily, Shia LaBeouf is more than capable of handling the weight, delivering another likeable turn as Sam, once again being thrust into the middle of a robotic war.

LaBeouf is hardly called upon to do any real acting, but he does provide a neat line in quips without coming across as smug or annoying.

As his girlfriend, Megan Fox may be incredibly pleasing to the eye, but as an actress it's difficult to judge who is more robotic – her or the Transformers themselves.

Her 'performance' mainly consists of lip gloss, legs and cleavage (and one does have to question the health and safety aspect of her working in a garage with knee-high boots and a short skirt), and while certainly a turn suited for the males in the audience, adds very little to the film.

Far better are a range of smaller turns from the likes of John Turturro and Josh Duhamel, adding a bit of depth to the human element of the film without really doing too much, while the voice cast do their jobs with aplomb.

However, the twin cars that speak some peculiar form of urban jive are more annoying than meeting a lift full of Jar Jar Binks'.

The script follows a similar template from the first film, but adds in a few more fan favourite characters to up the ante, while deepening the mythology of the characters and their background nicely.

It's the dialogue, however, that jars the most, full of heavy-handed lines that mistake cliché for gravitas and it makes you snigger at the writers' inability to get something as basic as speech right in such a glossy film.

Ultimately, therein lies the main problem – despite the outward gloss, there is very little substance beneath it, which makes Revenge of the Fallen a somewhat underwhelming experience and certainly not a patch on the first outing.

VERDICT – An overlong, bombastic, 'directed by Michael Bay' experience, Transformers: *Revenge of the Fallen* lacks the charm of its forbearer, relying on explosions and little else.

As a blockbuster film it works satisfactorily, but it lacks the depth to really stand out on its own terms. ***Average.***

A FUN-PACKED FAMILY DAY OUT AT TY HAFAN

ABOVE: Stormtroopers and Batman were on hand last year to keep an eye on proceedings.

THE annual Ty Hafan fun day takes place on Sunday, June 28, starting at the hospice at 12noon and going right through until 6pm.

Last year, it brought more than 1,500 people to the hospice on Hayes Road just outside Sully, which provides comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families right across Wales.

This year police dogs and horses will be putting on a display and the Copthorne Theatre Company will be performing pantomimes throughout the afternoon.

Dansette, a local soul band, and the Barry Brass Band will add their distinctive sounds, along with demonstrations from the Brandywine Cloggers and the Vale Karate Club.

Last year's visitors will remember the amazing Welsh Bokkers, as well as the Star Wars Storm Troopers, who will be keeping everyone in order.

F1 drivers will have a chance to show their skills on the mini go-karts while Mum, Dad and the rest of the family can browse around the many craft stalls or the vintage cars display.

There will be an opportunity of a guided tour around the hospice.

All proceeds from the day will go towards Ty Hafan. Car parking will be available, with a suggested donation of £1 per car.

For more information, visit www.tyhafan.org or contact Mared on 029 2067 2081.

Students show their artistic and creative talents

AN exhibition showcasing the creative talents of final year art and design students from Barry College has gone on show at the Vale Council's Art Central gallery.

The exhibition is the outcome of students studying WJEC foundation diploma, BETEC First and national diplomas and foundation degree course at the college and shows a fantastic mix of imaginative and creative art designs in a variety of media including textiles, fashion, ceramics, graphics, printmaking, photography and fine art.

A number of students have based their work around a recent educational visit to Paris, which has stimulated a range of new experimental approaches.

The exhibition runs until June 27 and entry is free. Art Central is open between 10am-4pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays.

CHURCH MUSIC

AN evening of organ music and song takes place at St Paul's Church, Barry, on Friday, July 3, at 7.30pm.

Organist Brian Williams, from the Cardiff church of St German will join Barry soprano Alison Shone in a varied programme, in aid of the continuing work of Barry churches, St Paul and Merthyr Dyfan.

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YOUNG COWBRIDGE FOOTBALLERS ARE HONOURED ON PRESENTATION NIGHT

CARDIFF City supremo Peter Risdale was the special guest when Cowbridge Town AFC held its annual presentation night recently.

More than 250 people were packed into Cowbridge Leisure Centre to see the awards handed out.

There was a poignant moment when a new award was presented. The Sam Owens 'Clubman of the Year' Trophy is dedicated to the memory of former club player Sam Owens, who died in a car accident just over 12 months ago.

The first winner was Sean Skeets, who plays for the Cowbridge under-10 Wizards, and he was presented with the trophy by Sam's mother,

The Cowbridge Town chairman, Rhys Williams, said: "Sam was tragically taken from us last year and the award will epitomise everything Sam stood for – enthusiasm, commitment, team spirit and fair play."

Young Sean was picked out as winner of the award from a group of five nominations.

Other presentations were made by Cardiff City chairman Peter Ridsdale, who has made his home in the town.

The 'team of the year' award went to the under-9s, who are managed by Bob Murphy.

The team scored 87 goals during 2008-09. Liam Murphy scored 19 goals, Bevan Howells 16, Rhys Bradshaw and Jake Griffiths 15 each.

Manager Bob Murphy said: "The boys trained hard all season and played some excellent football.

"They continue to develop and will have bright futures with Cowbridge Town FC."

Four of this team, Jake Griffiths, Liam Murphy, Bevan Howells and goalkeeper Ellis Llewellyn, have trained with Cardiff City's youth academy.

CLUB 2008-09 PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Minis:

Under-8 (manager Matthew Lewis): manager's player – Declan Brookes; most improved player – Harry Donithorne; players' player – Ben Jones.

Under-8 Tigers (manager Clive Evans): manager's player – William O'Connor; most improved player – Edward Thomas; players' player – Matthew Oddy.

Under-8 Crusaders (manager Glenn Hughes): manager's player Jamie White; most improved player Jack Dixon; players' player Ioan Williams.

Under 9, (manager John Westwood): manager's player – Daniel Marshall; most improved player – Tom Naylor; players' player – Harry Lee.

Under-9 (II) (manager Bob Murphy): manager's player – Liam Murphy; most improved player – Rhys Bradshaw; players' player – Bevan Howells.

Under-10 Wizards (manager Rik Stevens): manager's player – Tom Ovenstone; most improved player – Joshua Jones; players' player – Callum Blackman.

Under-10 B (manager Robert Smith): manager's player – David Bear; most improved player – Thomas Bainbridge Glover; players' player – Tomos Evans Williams.

Under-10 Comets (manager Mark Tuckwell): manager's player – George Day; most improved player – Owen Tuckwell; players' player – Iwan Goodwin.

Under-11 (manager Iwan Llion): manager's player – Dan Oddy; most improved player – Cai Owen; players' player – Jo Traherne.

Juniors:

Under-12 (manager Alun Griffiths): manager's player – Brad Rosser; most improved player – Cameron Jones; players' player – Owen Ace.

Under-13 (manager John Treharne): manager's player – Tom Morgan; most improved player – Dan Hollings; players' player – Hari Williams.

Under-14 (manager Andy Mallows): manager's player – Rhys Jenkins; most improved player – Matthew Flemming; players' player – Matthew Fleet.

Under-15 (manager Andy Rowland): manager's player – John Davies; most improved player – Josh Rowland; players' player – Alex Kurobasa.

Under-16 (manager Craig Paley): manager's player – Sean James; most improved player – Lewis Elliott; players' player – Jake Rees.

AT THE HOME OF THE HAMMERS

COWBRIDGE schoolboy George Day had a special birthday celebration recently – at the home of the Hammers.

George and his Cowbridge Comets under-10 team-mates played at West Ham United's Upton Park in a specially-organised tournament.

His father Steve arranged for teams from Essex to join Cowbridge in the tournament. He said: "George loves West Ham United and when I was deciding on a birthday surprise I came up with this idea."

He said that arranging the day had cost £6,000, which was the cost of hiring Upton Park.

Steve had another stroke of luck when he played in a testimonial match for former Cardiff City player Christian Roberts, for a Chelsea XI against Swindon Town.

Steve said: "The boys did really well at Upton Park, and narrowly lost 1 - 0 in the semi-final."

George is already playing within the Cardiff City Youth Academy system, while he has also attracted interest from Aston Villa, Everton, West Ham, Bristol City, Birmingham City, Swansea and Southampton.

Steve said: "George is just relaxed playing his football and wants to remain in the Cardiff City system, as he has a great rapport with the Cardiff City coaches, especially Nathan Nurton."

Bluebirds' fan Steve, who has bought Premier Club seats in the new Cardiff City stadium, from next season, has close links with the Coca-Cola Championship club.

Director Steve Borley and former player Mark Bonner are godparents to George, while Cardiff City have now established close links with Cowbridge Town FC, who have more than 200 players, and run teams from under-8s through to senior level.

ABOVE: Sean Skeets received the inaugural Sam Owens Clubman of the Year Trophy.

ABOVE: Cowbridge AFC Chairman, Rhys Williams, presenting Peter Ridsdale with a memento of the evening.

ABOVE: Cowbridge 'Team of the Year' were the under 9-s (II) squad.

ABOVE: Cowbridge under-16s, who have played their final game in the junior league and are now competing for the first time in the South Wales Youth League in September.

SPORTS NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

MATTHEW AND TODD REMAIN COOL IN RUN CHASE

CRICKET

THE year-9 cricket team had an exciting league win over Cathays School recently.

Captain Will Antoni put Cathays in to bat and, with some impressive bowling from Jack Davies and Todd Wilcox, Cowbridge kept their opponents total to an achievable 91 at the end of the 20 overs.

The Cathays opening bowler started brilliantly and opener Dan Peters was out early. Two further wickets fell in quick succession, and it was left to two year-8 boys, Matthew Jacka and Todd Wilcox, to build the Cowbridge score.

With Cowbridge needing 16 runs from 12 balls, it was going to be a tight finish. However, Jacka and Wilcox batted brilliantly under pressure to get the total with four balls to spare.

Cardiff and Vale Schools League:

Year-7 played Cardiff High away and scored 76 for 7 batting first in 20 overs. The top scorer was Ben Crosby;

Cardiff High replied with 77-1 (wicket taken by Jack Griffiths).

Year-7 played Barry Comp at home, Cowbridge scored 101-5 batting first in 20 overs, top score John Extra (39), Alex Arnott (captain 12)

Barry were 98 -8. Wickets were taken by Owen Ace (five for eight off four overs including four in one over). Other wicket takers were Sean Rowland 1-22, Joseph Rickets 1-7, Jacob Clarke 1-4.

Year-8 played Harden Huish School away.

Cowbridge, 130-9 in 25 overs; top scores Todd Wilcox 45, Harri Collier 25 and Chris Brace 17; Harden Huish 82-6. Wickets were taken by Rhys Cogan 1-10, Chris Brace 1-10, Harri Collier 1-4, Jack Faulkner 1-8, Jason Sami 1-10 and George Gibson 1-1.

TENNIS

Against Richard Gwyn R C School: **Singles**, Rhys Elms lost 6-2, George Gibson won 6-1, David Howells lost 6-1, Alex Greaves won 6-5.

Doubles, Jack Faulkner and Joe Foulds lost 6-2; Mathew Howells and Harri Harpin won 6-4;

Singles, Niamh Gallagher won 6-3; **Doubles**, Liz Whitehouse and Mari Boxall won 6-4.

KNOCKOUT ATHLETICS FINAL

COWBRIDGE athletics teams competed in the Knockout Cup finals last week.

The under-14 girls team qualified for the A cup final held at Jenner Park on June 16. Notable results came from Liz Whitehouse in the 100m (first place in the A), Jordan Carpenter in the 800m (second in the A), Melissa Gooding in the high jump (second in the A) and Bethan Sloan in the discus (second in the A) and Amy Wallis (second in the B) which enabled Cowbridge to secure a respectable fourth place.

The under-14 boys, under-16 girls and under-16 boys teams qualified for the B cup final at Jenner Park in June 18.

Each team produced the following set of notable results.

Under-14 boys – Second in the A race: hurdles, Harry Thomas; long jump, George Griffiths; 800m, Chris Brace; javelin, Logan Bibb.

First in the B race: hurdles, Chris Powell; long jump, Harry Thomas; javelin, James Whittingham

Second in the B race: 1500m, Jake Morgan; shot putt, Harry Dowell-Bennett; 800m, Joshua Thomas.

The under-14 boys finished fourth overall.

Under-16 girls – First in the A race: 1500m, Fiona Bray;

Second in the A race: 75m hurdles, Molly Williams; 800m, Rachel Bradshaw.

First in the Brace: 1500m, Katie Wynne; long jump, Jessica Tidley; 800m, Katie Howson.

Second in the Brace: High jump, Molly Llewellyn.

A big thank you goes to Amy Taylor for stepping into the team at the last minute. The under-16 girls finished second overall, just four points behind the winners, Llantwit.

Under-16 boys – First in the Arace: 1500m, Oliver Beamen; 800m, Elliott Mears.

First in the B race: 200m, Kurt Fackrell.

Second in the B race: High jump, James Williams; javelin, Oliver Beamen; shot, Guss McPherson; 800m, Josh Thomas.

The under-16 boys finished second. They were only seven points behind the winners, Barry.

Well done to all the athletics. This competition concludes the athletics season for all year-8+ pupils. We now look forward to the year-7 championships and the school sports day, which is being held on Friday, July 3, at Jenner Park, Barry.

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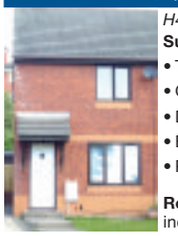

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

Developments in Conservation Areas

Application No: 2009/00583/FUL
Proposal: Proposed two storey extension to side and rear, with proposed single storey porch to front
Location: 34, The Broad Shoard, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No: 2009/00597/FUL
Proposal: Demolition of 2 no. existing outbuildings and construction of Coach House dwelling (2 no. bedrooms) on land to rear of 9, Bradenham Place. Change of use of existing offices at ground and first floor level at 9, Bradenham Place to 3 no. Apartments and associated internal and external alterations. Widening of existing crossover from Hickman Road
Location: 9, Bradenham Place, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Application No: 2009/00599/CAC
Proposal: Demolition of 2 no. existing outbuildings on land to rear
Location: 9, Bradenham Place, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Application No: 2009/00601/LBC
Proposal: Extend existing conservatory, insert 2 no. sets of doors, demolish walls inside kitchen, demolish walls between kitchen/conservatory
Location: 13, Marine Parade, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Application No: 2009/00604/FUL
Proposal: Alterations to existing garage
Location: 3, Woodford House, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area: Llantwit Major

Application No: 2009/00609/FUL
Proposal: Demolition and rebuild of double garage, erection of two storey extension in place of garage with disabled amenity
Location: 2, Readers Way, Rhoose
Conservation Area: Rhoose

Application No: 2009/00611/FUL
Proposal: Alterations to barn for use as a separate dwelling
Location: Barn adjacent to Franklen House, Llysworney
Conservation Area: Llysworney

Conservation Area Consent

Application No: 2009/00599/CAC
Proposal: Demolition of 2 no. existing outbuildings on land to rear
Location: 9, Bradenham Place, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Listed Building Consent

Application No: 2009/00601/LBC
Proposal: Extend existing conservatory, insert 2 no. sets of doors, demolish walls inside kitchen, demolish walls between kitchen/conservatory
Location: 13, Marine Parade, Penarth
Listed Building: Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below.

Dated: 25 June, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation

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Children's welfare gets inspectors' approval

THE children's services department in Bridgend county borough, which had been put under special scrutiny by Assembly inspectors, has worked its way out of that spotlight.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been congratulated by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) for substantial improvements in its children's services, which have resulted in the lifting of a 'serious concern' protocol.

A recent review by CSSIW found that social services staff and managers have "continued to work hard to secure further improvements, and have established more robust systems for consistent assessment of risk and effective decision making".

The "corporate leadership" for children's services were also praised.

Chief Inspector Rob Pickford said: "The authority now responds much more promptly and effectively to initial concerns about children, and is much more reliable in planning for their welfare and reviewing progress.

"It has better systems to manage its own performance and monitor its own progress. The relationship between the inspectorate and the authority can now revert to one of normal business, with the inspectorate checking progress through our normal programme of inspection and reviews."

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, said: "I welcome this excellent news. As a cabinet, we have been determined to see a sustained and substantial improvement in this area, and I have been very closely involved in monitoring progress.

"I know how dedicated staff within the children's directorate have been to making this happen."

Coun Alana Davies, the cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I am passionate about the welfare of our children and young people, so I am truly delighted about the good work which is now being achieved in this service area."

Jo Farrar, chief executive of BCBC, said: "This is not the end of the improvements. Children's services have been, and remain, a corporate priority, but this is a very positive building block for the future."

Vale planning applications

Mr David Jones, **4 New Barn, St Athan** – two storey extension and detached double garage.

Mr T Cuddihy, **Gatekeepers Lodge, Hayes Point, Hayes Road, Sully** – double garage with ancillary office/studio, amendment to 05/00893/FUL.

Mr and Mrs O'Neill, **The Bowers, Coldbrook Road West, Barry** – retention of alterations to existing building. Mrs Sue Culberson, **4 Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – addition of a front porch and garden tool shed.

Mr David Green, **27 St Pauls Avenue, Barry** – rear single storey extension to enlarge kitchen and dining room and garage extension.

Mr S Hopkin, **34 The Broad Shoard, Cowbridge** – two storey extension to side and rear, with single storey porch to front.

Mr Ian Campbell, **The Croft, Heol y March, Bonvilston** – first floor addition and extensions to provide double garage and bedrooms to an existing ground floor only bungalow.

Mr Paul Hopkins, **St Annes, Romilly Park Road, Barry** – two-storey extension providing kitchen, utility, wc, bedroom and bathroom.

Mr Stephen Jones, **1 Phyllis Street, Barry Island** – demolish existing garage/workshop (single storey), redevelop two-storey coach house on same location.

Mr Terry Donovan, **56 Redlands Avenue, Penarth** – change use of existing garage, including rear extension to create a one-bedroom detached dwelling.

Mr and Mrs Briley, **5 Britten Road, Penarth** – conservatory to rear of property.

Mr and Mrs Skinner, **63 Cog Road, Sully** – retention of double height rear conservatory extension and single storey extension to kitchen with balcony above, and new rear dormer to accommodate patio door in lieu of two existing dormer windows, all as already built. Construction of two dormer windows on front face of house and new single storey garage on side of house.

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

By order of the mortagee in possession we would advise that an offer of **£146,000** has been received for the property **2 Clos Henblas, Broadlands, Bridgend, CF31 5EU**

Any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents **Brighter Moves Estate Agents Tel. 01656 655936** of their best and final offer within 7 days of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gareth Jones are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£90,000** for **7 York Place, Barry CF62 7DX**

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact **Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX Tel. 01446 744812** before exchange of contracts

Public Notices

ASIANTAETH YR AMGYLCHEDD DEDDF ADNODDAU DŴR 1991

(FEL Y'I NEWIDIWYD GAN DDEDDF YR AMGYLCHEDD 1995)

RHYBUDD O GAIS AM GANIATÂD AT DDIBENION ADRAN 88

RHODDIR RHYBUDD DRWY HYN yn unol ag Atodlen 10 Deddf Adnoddau Dŵr 1991 bod cais wedi'i gyflwyno gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd am ganiatâd i ollwng hyd at 7.3 metr ciwbig y dydd o elifion carthion sydd wedi cael triniaeth eilaidd i mewn i un o lednentydd Afon Ddawan yng Nghyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol SS 99933 71972 o Ysgol Gynradd Llan-fair, The Herberts, Llan-fair, Y Bont-faen CF71 7LT.

Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ynghylch y cais wneud hynny'n ysgrifenedig drwy anfon y sylwadau i'r cyfeiriad canlynol: The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, PO Box 4209, Sheffield S9 9BS. Dylid cyflwyno'r sylwadau rhwng 25/6/09 a 6/8/09 gan ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod NPSWQD007980.

Dylech fod yn ymwybodol o'r ffaith y gall unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir fod ar gael i drydydd partïon eu gweld dan y Ddeddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth neu Reoliadau Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol 2004.

Gellir gweld copi o'r cais yn rhad ac am ddim yn swyddfa leol Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn y cyfeiriad canlynol: Plas yr Afon, Parc Busnes Llaneirwg, Heol Fortran, Llaneirwg, Caerdydd CF3 0EY rhwng 9am a 4.30pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener (heblaw am Wyliau Banc).

Grant Wilson
Ar ran Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd
Dyddiedig 25/6/09

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

(AS AMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 88

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Water Resources Act 1991 that an application has been made to the Environment Agency by Vale of Glamorgan Council for consent to discharge up to 7.3 cubic metres per day of secondary treated sewage effluent to tributary of River Thaw at National Grid Reference SS 99933 71972 from Llanfair Primary School, The Herberts, St Mary Church, Cowbridge, CF71 7LT.

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should do so in writing to The Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre, PO Box 4209, Sheffield, S9 9BS, during the period 25/6/09 to 6/8/09 quoting reference NPSWQD007980.

Please be aware that any representation may be made available to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge at the Local Environment Agency office at Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0EY between the hours of 9 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays).

Grant Wilson
On behalf of The Environment Agency
Dated 25/6/09

Family Notices

Wendy STREET

Peacefully at Holme Tower on June 21, 2009. Wendy of St Athan, beloved wife of David, loving mum to Debbie, David and Andrew, dearly loved mother-in-law, Nan and Great Nan.

You will always be loved and missed.

Funeral on Monday June 29, 2009 in St Tathan Church at 10.30am., followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to WA Brown & Son, College St., Llantwit Major. Tel: 01446 792489.

Dave Pearson

One year has passed,
No time to say goodbye,
Just goodnight and God bless you,
Until we meet again one day,
Love and miss you more than words can say.

All our love, Joan, Pam and Trisha. XXXX

THACKER Nicola (Nic)

Peacefully at home on June 21, Nicola of Llantwit Major (formerly Yorkshire).

Beloved partner of Ed, devoted mummy of Ellis. Much loved daughter of Godfrey and the late Marie. A loving sister of Joanne. Greatly missed by Lauren, Joan, Jemma, Anthea, her family and friends.

Funeral service in St Catwgs Church, Llanmaes, on Tuesday June 30 at 10am, afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium. No flowers by request, please, donations if wished to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

All enquiries to WA Brown & Son, College St., Llantwit Major. Tel: 01446 792489.

Dave PEARSON

Precious memories of a dear dad, grandad and great-grandad who passed away on June 26, 2008.

Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Love, Sue, Paul, John, Jess & Aeron XXXXX

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Thank You

Des & Jean Johnson would like to thank everyone for their congratulation cards, flowers and good wishes

Property

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We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £87,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts take place.

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That's better! Bowlers find some form again with big rink shake-up

CADOXTON V TAFFS WELL CML2

AFTER last week's disaster, there was a complete shake-up of all the Cadoxton rinks, and it produced a much better performance against Taffs Well, at home.

Kelvin Chedgzoy returned to the mat, with Ivor Robertson introduced as third.

They took an immediate lead and were never overtaken during the game, although the scores were level on two occasions.

After a third of the game on end seven, the score was six each. Then on the following third the opponents caught up once again at 11-11.

The final part was finished in style with the hosts collecting three threes and a single with only three singles against.

A completely new rink renewed an old partnership with Andrew Hatcher returning to play third to Don Kuhnell.

They were supported by Howard Hellyar and Viv Thurston.

In blustery but dry conditions the bowling was superb on both sides with the shot changing bowl after bowl.

Cadoxton took the initiative from then on to take a 1 shot advantage.

The next end brought a lapse when Don faced six shots against, but drew the shot with his final bowl. This was followed on the next end with holding seven shots and the opposing skip getting a last bowl saver from second shot.

Gary Jones had Derek Brook added to his rink as second and were not headed throughout the game.

They had built an eight-shot lead with six ends left, but a phase of inspiration from their opponents brought the difference to just one. Two twos to finish ensured two more home points.

Graham Brown's new look rink included Tony Bishop, back from a few weeks break, at lead, with Dai Tuck, and Les Cundliffe completing the four.

They took an early lead, which was held until the opponents eventually drew level at 13-13.

The next end proved unlucky for the home side when a five, was conceded, which they failed to recover from.

Scores: T Bishop, D Tuck, L Cundliffe, G Brown 17-23; H Hellyar, V Thurston, A. Hatcher, D Kuhnell 17-11; W Eadie, W Vaughan, I Robertson, K Chedgzoy 21-14; P Ellis, D Brook, J Davies, G Jones 18-13. **Final score: 73-61.**

CADOXTON V CYFARTHFA CASTLE CML2

UNFORTUNATELY, Cadoxton A side had to make the long trip to Cyfarthfa Castle, a new addition to the league, with two players short.

Mike Curtis skipped one of the short rinks to a very pleasing success, by winning 15 of the 21 ends. John Stewart and Bob Knight gave him able support.

However, on the other triple, the result was reversed with Graham Garland conceding 15 of the ends.

A bad start on Alan Carpenter's rink left them 7-0 down and they were never able to get back into contention.

The fourth rink was skipped by Roy Harding, and they started by conceding a five on the opening end.

On the fifth end they took the lead, which was increased to a 10 shot advantage by the 13th end.

The success seemed to have been forfeited when 11 shots against were scored over the next seven ends.

Nevertheless, they stuck to the task and got the necessary two shots required on the final end.

Scores: R Doble, G Solomon, D Evans, R Harding 20 -19; G Powell, L Little, G Davies, A Carpenter 12-21; B Knight, J Stewart, M Curtis 26-14; D Collard, I Dunbar, G Garland, 10-28. **Final score:** 59 -82.

CADOXTON V WINDSOR MUNRO CUP

CADOXTON were hosts to Windsor in this Munro Cup match with two winning rinks each.

The home side had an advantage of 11 shots with their successful wins, but the opposition's difference was 30.

The biggest difference was on a rink which unfortunately had to be changed just prior to the game due to the unavailability of skip Don Kuhnell.

Jim Davies took over as skip on a now weak looking rink, against the experienced Mal Hope.

They did hold their own for six ends with the score at 3-3. However, during the remaining 12 ends only two shots were scored.

The other losing rink came with what seemed a strong setup, but they came up against the experienced Ken McLeod as opposing skip who continuously stopped them scoring by turning over any advantages they produced.

Alan Carpenter returned to his winning ways, in the Munro Cup, when he skipped his rink to a good win despite conceding a five on the penultimate end against Tom Fahey's four.

Graham Brown had some good early service from his lead Bob Knight, which aided them in gaining an early advantage against the opposing rink skipped by John Hardess.

The game continued to completion with the score always in the home team's favour, with Mike Curtis and Les Cundliffe playing their part.

Scores: G Solomon, R Doble, G Davies, J Davies 5-23 J Thomas, B Rogers, E Thorne, M Hope. D Evans, J Sugden, J Stewart, A Carpenter 15-13 J Price, C Lewis, A Dudley, T Fahey. B Knight, M Curtis, L Cundliffe, G Brown 19-10 M Fullbrook, M Lloyd Jones, R Owen, J Hardess. D Jones, G Jones, I Robertson, K Chedgzoy 12-24 R Lewis, P Gooding, T Holmes, K McLeod. **Final score:** 51-70.

DK

EMAIL US!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports reports. Please email them to the Editorial Department:

ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Cadoxton ladies struggle as Romilly take plaudits

ABOVE: Cadoxton ladies in their club colours.

THE week commencing June 15 was not one of Cadoxton ladies' most successful ever.

The first match of the week, the evening league was cancelled, and due to other bowling pressures the points were shared with Barry Athletic.

The very heavy showers through the day had made the green waterlogged and unfit to play.

June 18 league match was held at Cadoxton with the visitors Romilly Ladies.

The heavy winds made it difficult to keep upright on times but the ladies battled on. Romilly taking a resounding victory.

Rink one: Cadoxton – M Slee, J Watkins,A Rees, D Davies 10, Romilly – J Coles, P Cogbill, J Donavon K Bryan 28.

Romilly made an excellent start gaining eight shots in the first six ends. Skip Kath Bryan did an excellent job in taking Cadoxton's shots off several times.

The scores were fairly even up to the 12th end of this 18 end match but Romilly forged ahead and Cadoxton were unable to make an impression on the scoring.

Rink two: Cadoxton – Joy Wood, P Davies, N Hitchens, Paula Currie 8, Romilly – M Werner, J Davies,J Jeeves, N Goodrich 27.

The ladies started well and the score was even on end five. After this Cadoxton didn't score until 14th/16th ends when they scored one shot each end. Scoring steadily Romilly finished in fine style by taking seven shots on the last two ends.

Rink three: Cadoxton – A Jones, N Clissett, D Evans, J Tuck 16, Romilly – M Lalande, A Shepherd, B Freeman, M Newman 18.

This was a very exciting game with the scores being fairly even throughout the game. On end 12 the Cadoxton ladies were ahead 13/10. Romilly scored on the next four ends to bring the score up to 17/13 in their favour.

Cadoxton were able to recover and took three on end 17 but not enough to seal a win.

DOT DAVIES

ON JUNE 16, Cadoxton Ladies dressed in their club colours and played a club competition 'Katie's Cup'.

This competition is in memory of Katie Selley a very long and respected member of Cadoxton Ladies Bowling Club.

The cup was presented to the club by her husband George, and every year we remember Katie and her contribution to the club.

The competition is a fun game and points are gained by each lady playing with three woods. The shot gaining three points, second two and third one. It is played over 12 ends, with the highest scorers going forward to the semi-final.

Semi-final winners were: J Tuck, M Paterson, P Currie, D Evans P Davies and M Slee

The highest scorers of the semi-final were: J Tuck and D Evans who then played in the final.

In a very exciting final, both ladies battled well and the score was equal going into the last end. Jean Tuck took the competition by just one point. Congratulations to Jean Tuck well done to Dianne Evans, an excellent day to commemorate 'Katie'.

Pencoed Lifesaving club open to junior members

PENCOED and District LifeSaving Club is finally able to open its doors to new junior members aged 10-15 years.

For many years, the junior lifesaving club waiting-list has been prohibitive, with members travelling from far and wide, from Llantwit and St Brides through Bridgend and district and as far as Llantrisant.

Recent intakes have allowed the July intake list to be thrown-open to this year's applicants. Swimmers under 15, boys and girls of 'Gold' standard, who are able to swim a strong six lengths and tread water for five minutes are invited to leave their details at Pencoed swimming-pool for Thursday evening, or telephone 01656 667640 to join the club.

Royal LifeSaving Society standards 1-2-3 are taught by qualified coaches from 7-8pm and the senior club trains for the RLSS bronze medallion from 8-9pm with further First-Aid and resuscitation training.

Selected members over 16 may be offered training and qualification as an RLSS assistant teacher, to develop their life skills. For those undertaking physical education in school, earning their bronze medallion counts for up to 30 marks in their GCSEs.

The club is a 'social-swimming club' with qualification standards and does not run 'short-course' for direct or 'quick' qualification for the bronze medallion.

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Llandow circuit charity day aims to raise £2,000

A CHARITY track day at Llandow motor circuit near Cowbridge on Thursday, July 16, expects to raise more than £1,000 for both the local Ed Evans Foundation and for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund.

The event provides an opportunity for drivers to experience speed in their own cars in a safe but interesting environment.

Spectators will be welcome, and entry is free.

The organiser, Christopher Darwin, said: "We have been running fundraising events at motor circuits for several years. We have had two excellent days at Llandow in the last year, and are back for more fundraising fun.

"We have been well-supported by the circuit management and are looking forward to another enjoyable day.

"Cars on track will include several 1960s British sports cars as well as modern cars."

The Ed Evans Foundation was established in 2006 and has already raised more than £85,000 for Cancer Research Wales and other charities. *See www.edevansfoundation.co.uk.*

The RN and RM Children's Fund provides support to children whose parents work, or have worked, for the Naval Service in areas including childcare, special needs education and in-home support in times of crisis. See *www.rnrmchildrensfund.org.*

For further information about the track day, please contact Christopher Darwin on 01288 381265 or e-mail c.darwin@virgin.net.

Kitemark is symbol of quality body repair work

JUNE 18 saw the announcement of the Kitemark Vehicle Body Repair scheme.

Motorists can now choose a crash repairer to deliver a safe, quality repair by looking for the Kitemark symbol.

Mortorvation Body Repairs of Bridgend were awarded their Kitemark licence on September 30, 2008 and were one of the first body repairs to achieve the Kitemark.

The accident repair Kitemark was launched by Thatcham (insurer funded research organisation) and BSI two years ago to provide the crash repair industry with recognisable standards to work to. It has received support from across the industry and has been fundamental to raising standards in the crash repair industry.

"We are 100 per cent behind the introduction of the Kitemark. As a crash repairer, it will enable us to assure our customers and the insurers we work with the vehicles going through our bodyshop have been repaired using safe and demonstrable quality procedures," said Mr Julian Allen of Motorvation.

Dinas owner stakes claim for piece of Welsh racing history

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams made horse racing history at Britain's newest racecourse at Ffos Las in Carmarthenshire last Thursday evening when saddling the first ever winner at the 10,000 sell-out inaugural meeting.

The horse that raced into the record books was a six-year-old bay gelding called *Plunkett*, owned by Hywel Jones of Dinas Powys, who won The freebets.co.uk National Hunt Novices Hurdle under Irish jockey Donal Fahy.

Evan told me in the winners' enclosure after the race:

"We got the horse from Michael Hourigan about a month ago and all the credit must go to him as he said *Plunkett* was the type of horse we could do well with in the summer."

He added: "It means an awful lot, as a Welshman, to come here and get the first winner.

"But we have to get up in the morning and go and do it elsewhere so it's important to keep a level head about it all.'"

Plunkett's delighted owner said: "It's a historic moment and I'm proud to win this first race at this amazing brand new racecourse.

" We planned ahead and as I said to Evan, we would love to come down here and win the first race.

"As a proud west Walian, I wanted to show that west Wales is a hard place for anyone outside the area to win.

" I said to Evan, find me a horse to win that prize.

"Evan went away and found the horse he believed would win the first race at Ffos Las. The man did what he said he would and we won the race-job done."

Later in the evening, Evan's Danehill Willy, ridden by champion National Hunt jockey Tony McCoy, won the Ffos Las Live On At The Races Novice's Chase.

Danehill Willy was the second leg of a hat-trick for McCoy, who also won on *Sea Wall* and *NoStringsAttached* for leading trainer Jonjo O'Neill.

ROAD WORKS IN THE VALE

Dock View Road junction with Thompson Street, Barry – ongoing temporary traffic signals.
Sully Road, between Penarth and Sully (near Ashgrove School) – ongoing intermittent traffic control to allow construction of new access.
Gileston Road, St Athan – temporary traffic signals.
B4267 Lavernock Road, Penarth near Brockhill Rise – intermittent temporary offpeak traffic signals until July 15, for essential water works.
A4055 Cardiff Road between Dinas Powys and Barry – temporary traffic signals in operation, following a landslide, while repairs are undertaken.
Holton Road, Barry near Courtenay Road – temporary traffic signals in place on Friday, June 26, to allow maintenance to a manhole cover and frame (off-peak only).

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185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185	185/65R14 Hero	£33.21	£63	£120
185/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£270	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£54.84	£105	£200	185/65R15 Hero	£36.65	£69	£132
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195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£250	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£58.66	£112	£220	195/60R15 Federal	£40.38	£78	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£61.37	£115	£220	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£51.74	£97	£195	195/65R15 Federal	£41.58	£79	£150
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Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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205/55R16 Bridgestone ER300	£72.08	£137	£265	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£66.30	£128	£250	205/55R16 Hero	£47.63	£90	£170
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04 **04 MITSUBISHI Shogun 3.2 TD DI-D Equipe 5-Dr Station Wagon** In metallic green with dark blue interior, electric sunroof, alloy wheels, 7 seats, twin towing electrics, alarm, only 40,080 miles **£8,995**

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07 **07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

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03 **03 MINI 1.4 TD One Salt Pack.** In Indi Blue with beige and panther black full leather interior, automatic climate control, heated seats, electronic sunroof, £35 a year road tax, only 79,370 miles.....**£7,495**

06 **06 MINI 1.6 Cooper Chilli 2-dr Convertible.** In metallic orange with half leather interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 25,320 miles **£11,995**

02 **02 PORSCHE Boxster S 3.2 2-dr Convertible** in brilliant silver with black leather interior, 18inch sport design alloy wheels, wind deflector, heated seats, only 38,850 miles.....**£13,995**

04 **04 SEAT Ibiza 1.9 TDi 130 FR 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Flash Red with sport grid dark interior, alloy wheels, climate control, sports seats, traction control, CD, alarm, only 31,260 miles.....**£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles.....**£6,495**

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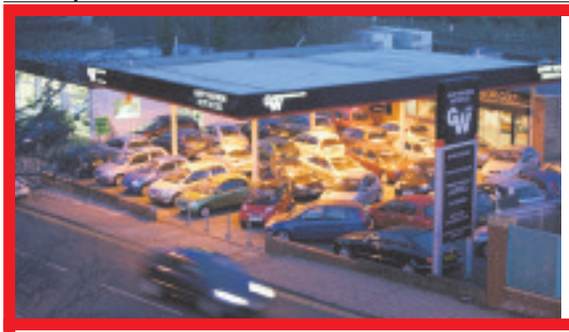

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03 FORD Ka 1.3i Luxury, black, 48,000 miles. fsh, leather, a/c, pas, group 3 ins, low tax, immaculate cond

£3,995
04 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto Climate a/c, vogue grey, 5-dr hatch, fsh, a/c, alloys, pas, e/w, e/m

£3,995
04 RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 16V Dynamique, low miles, finished in Bermuda blue, service history, e/w, e/w, pas.

£3,795
02 RENAULT Clio 2.0 172 Renaultsport, only 65,000 miles, service history, 17" light weight alloy wheels

£3,995
V LEXUS IS 200 SE 2.0 Navigator In green met, 88,000 miles fsh, sat nav, a/c, leather, e/w.

£3,995
54 ROVER Streetwise 2.0 SETD blue met Turbo Diesel, only 22,000 miles, e/w, r/c/locking, 17" alloys.

£3,995
53 RENAULT Clio 1.2-16v Expression 5-dr in ruby red met, only 32,000 miles, a/c, factory cd player, e/w

£3,995
52 CITROEN C3 1.6 Exclusive (a/c) 5dr In blue, only 36,000 miles fsh. Loaded with a/c, climate, e/w. Grp 5 ins

£3,295
Y PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTI SP 3-dr, silver metallic, fsh, full black leather, a/c, factory facelift alloys, RDS, abs

£2,995
52 FORD Focus 1.6-16v 5dr Zetec red metallic, 48,000 miles, service history, fantastic condition, a/c, e/w, alloys

£2,995
53 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr in blue, only 35,000 miles, fsh, a/c, e/w, pas, e/m, only group 3 insurance

£2,995
03 ROVER 75 1.8 T Club SE Turbo, immaculate, 44,000 miles, fsh, full heated leather, e/pack, factory alloys

£2,495
02 HYUNDAI Amica 1.0 GSI 5dr green met, only 30,000 miles with fsh, a/c, pas.

£1,995
X RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique Auto finished in moonstone silver. 5dr, alloys, r/c/l, a/c, e/w, pas.

06 BMW 330D M Sport 4dr Automatic in black metallic with full crème leather. ONLY 18,000 miles FSH, alloys, DIESEL, cruise, e/w £19,995
06 BMW 530D SE Automatic in grey met, covered LOW miles with FULL SERVICE HISTROY £16,995
06 BMW 325I M Sport I Drive (Navigation) in black, ONLY 24,000 miles FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Genuine M Sport with I Drive with wide screen sat nav. £16,995
06 BMW 118d 2.0 M Sport in black met, black leather, M Sport edition with climate, a/c, 18" alloys, leather, multi functional wheel £12,995
55 BMW 118d 2.0 M Sport [E85] in blue met, ONLY 38,000 miles FSH. DIESEL, Loaded with grey leather climate a/c, e/w, r/c/l, alloys £12,995
06 BMW 120d 2.0 SE in black, DIESEL covered ONLY 48,000 miles. FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Loaded with a/c climate, e/w, ... £11,995
55 BMW 320i SE LE Contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange, welcome, and many finance packages available. .. £11,995
06 BMW 120 I M Sport [E85] 5dr in black met, ONLY ,000 miles FSH. Loaded with black leather climate a/c, e/w, r/c/l, alloys £11,995
54 MINI Cooper 1.5 2dr Convertible (Leather) Blue pearl, leather with red stiching. ONLY 35,000 miles, FSH. In dash CD player £9,995
58 KIA Carens 2.0 GS CRDi Auto 7 Seater In r/oja red metallic. A very very impressive as new AUTOMATIC DIESEL SEVEN SEATER with manufactures warranty until 2013. Only 3,000 miles on this lovely well equipped MPV including parktronic, factory alloy wheels, CD Player, electric windows, remote loc £9,995
55 MINI Cooper 1.6 2dr Convertible Covered ONLY 36,000 miles with FULL MINI SERVICE HISTORY. convertible with black electric mohair roof, reverse parking sensors . £9,995
07 TOYOTA Aúris 1.6 VVTi TR M Sport 5dr in Ixion Blue met, ONLY 17,000 miles FTSH. High spec, air con, electric windows, PAS, e/m £8,995
06 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 SRI CDTi 5dr X Pack Diesel black met. 48,000 miles, a/c, X PACK, alloys, CD player, e/w, at £8,995
06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 150 Design Automatic Silver met, ONLY 34,000 miles FSH, Automatic DIESEL, 7 seater, a/c, alloys, a/c, ... £8,995
57 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE TDi PD 3dr silver met, ONLY 20,000 miles. ONLY £35 per year car tax! Alloys DIESEL,, CD player, air con £8,495
04 VOLKSWAGEN Touran 2.0 TDI SE (140) 7str/ 6spd in obsidian black. DIESEL 7 seater, STUNNING, air con, electric windows, mirrors, pas, r/c/l £7,995
51 LANDROVER Defender 90 TD5 Pick Up LE £7,995
04 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 GT TDI 140 PD (thhr) in black met, full black leather. 2.0 DIESEL 140ps, climate , air con, electric windows, remote locking £7,995
G LANDROVER Defender 90 3.5 V8 County in green, 6 seater with only 56K miles, full service History New exhaust V8 3.5 8-spoke wheels Goodrich All Terrain tyres. Excellent condition throughout and always maintained £7,995
53 MERCEDES C220 CDI SE Classic silver met, DIESEL, automatic, climate a/c, e/windows, remote locking, computer £7,495
VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 SDI 5dr 100 (a/c) in grey met, STUNNING DIESEL new shape 5dr covered ONLY 32,000 FVWSH. A/C w/climate, e/w, r/c/l £7,495
04 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI PD Sport 140 3dr blue metallic. FULL SERVICE HISTORY Full air condtioning with electronic climate control £7,495
07 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy 1.9 140 C20 In white, ONLY 28,000 miles FVWSH, genuine VW intergrated CD player, remote locking, PAS £7,495
03 MERCEDES C180 Komp. Classic SE light blue met, ONLY 52,000 miles FSH. Air con, climate, alloys, r/c/l, e/w, e/m, PAS £7,495
56 SUZUKI Swift 1.6 VVTS GLX 5dr in kashmir sparkle blue. NEW SHAPE covered ONLY 20,000 excellent car with Full service history £6,995
56 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v 3dr Stylance SE DAB in silver met, ONLY 4,000 miles with FSH. AS NEW 5dr TOP OF THE RANGE with climate, a/c, e/w. £6,995
06 MERCEDES A150 Classic SE Silver met, ONLY 24,000 miles FMBSH. New shape, a/c, CD, e/w, r/c/l, Stunning Condition £6,995
56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2-16V SXI in black, ONLY 47,000 miles. FVSH. Halt leather, a/c, alloy wheels, pas, electric windows. Immaculate £6,995
06 FORD Fiesta 1.4-16v Zetec Climate in mauve purple metallic, 22,000 miles ONE OWNER EXAMPLE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. CD , air con £5,995
07 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Stylance 3dr in obsidian black metallic Covered ONLY 13,000 miles with FULL SEAT SERVICE HISTORY. Air con £5,995
56 FORD Fiesta Freedom A/C 1.25-16v 3dr In silver, ONLY 53,000 miles FSH, air con, electric windows,, PAS, e/m. ONLY GROUP 3 insurance £5,995
06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club Obsidian black with charcoal cloth. 52,000 miles, FSH, 1.6 low insurance, air con, 7 seater £5,995
05 PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3dr (thhr) blue met. 30,000 mile FULL SERVICE HISTORY Full black leather, climate controlled air conditioning £5,995
03 TOYOTA Hilux D4-D EX 4x4 Pickup (f/lift) In red, late generation D4-D DIESEL. 4 Wheel Drive model with Ifor Williams Cab. VAT Free with RR diff lock, PAS, central locking, SONY audio system £5,995
06 RENAULT Master 2.5 LH35 TD (120) 3.5T LWB HT In pastel orange, NO VAT. Excellent condition 2.5 Turbo DIESEL DCI 120 PS. ONLY 33,000 MILES £5,995
05 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDi PD 100 Elegance SE 5dr In red pearl met, 55,000 miles DIESEL PD 100 BHP One owner with FULL SKODA SERVICE HISTORY. £5,495
54 SKODA Octavia 1.9 TDI Classic (90) 5dr Hatch in ice silver metallic, and includes ABS, Adjustable seats, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Central locking, Driver airbag, Head restraints, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Power assisted steering, Radio/CD and Rear headrests, at £5,495
55 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport S 5dr Covered ONLY 36,000 with FULL SERVICE HISTORY, face lift new model 206 Sport with low insurance 1.4 option. Finished in moonstone blue and totally unmarked with full anthracite cloth. 5 door with air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking £5,495
04 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2E 5dr in silver met, ONLY 54,000 miles FSH. Unmarked, LOW INSURANCE, cheap road tax. Power steering, windows £4,995
VOLKSWAGEN Passat 1.9 TDI 130 Sport Estate green met FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Beautiful example with top of the range specification £4,995
51 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 in blue metallic, face lift model, ONLYwith FSH. Beautiful condition throughout, alloys, e/w, CD £4,995
05 NISSAN Micra 1.4 SVE 3dr blue STUNNING 26,000 mile FULL NISSAN SERVICE HISTORY as new, TOP OF THE RANGE £4,995

03 FORD Mondeo 2.0 Zetec TDCi black metallic, DIESEL estate with FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Air con, e/windows, alloys, very economical £4,995
53 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 Twist 3dr In iridium grey met, ONLY 32,000 miles, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. CD player, air conditioning, alloy wheels £4,995
05 VOLKSWAGEN LT35 TDI MWB in white full VW service history, in built office room with rear cab storage. POWER STEERING, DIESEL £4,995
09 BMW 318CI SE Coupe in graphite met, Full service history and Low mileage coupe, air con, climate control, alloys, cruise, e/w Unmarked £4,995
V MAZDA MX-5 1.8-16v S Cabriolet in orange met. 2 OWNER 45,000 miles, FSH with book and recipts. Immaculate convertible, PAS, e/w, alloys £4,995
05 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 5dr Zest 3 5dr in rosso red, low insurance 1.1 5dr model. Special edition Zest, a/c, e/w, pas, velour trim, CD player £4,995
04 SMART Fourtwo 700 PASSION Auto Blue metallic, air con, e/ windows, remote locking, automatic, panoramic glass roof, alloy wheels, pas, 25,000 miles £4,495
52 RENAULT Clio 2.0 16v Renaultsport 172 in silver met, ONLY 65,000 miles FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Leather/alcantara, a/c climate £4,495
04 CITROEN C3 1.1 5dr Desire Silver, ONLY 32,000 miles FSH £4,495
53 VAUXHALL Corsa Design CDTi in green met, STUNNING DIESEL 5dr with FSH. Very economical, PAS, r/c/l, CD player £3,995
T TOYOTA Hilux 2.4TD Double Cab Truckman. Contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £3,995
03 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX Automatic 3dr in red, AUTOMATIC with power steering 5dr hatch, air con, e/w, r/c/l, low tax band £3,995
H LANDROVER Defender 110 V8 County In alpine white. SUPERB 110 V8, very powerful old school Defender with loads of history. 12 seater 4x4 with .....power steering, and loads more. Superb vehicle at £3,995
Y TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi 190 T Sport In blue met. FSH, air con, e/windows, remote locking, alloys, e/m, PAS, Stunning condition £3,995
52 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 S 3dr (55) inca yellow, ONLY 52,000 miles, alloys, a/c, power steering, CD, e/w £3,995
52 RENAULT Clio 1.2-16v Expression 5dr in yellow met, covered ONLY 66,000 miles. Immaculate 5dr, GRP 3 insurance, a/c, pas, e/w £3,495
53 MG ZR 1.4 105+ 3dr In championship black pearl covered ONLY 43,000 miles. Genuine 105+ with half leather, full bumper exterior pack, 17" Alloy wheels, CD player, power steering. Affordable insurance. Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively £3,495
53 DAEWOO Matiz 1.0 SE + 5dr zodiac silver met Beautiful "AS NEW" example covered ONLY 32,000 miles with FSH, air con, pas £2,995
X VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Comfort 3dr Automatic in electric blue, A Great looking 3dr Automatic Hatchback, with just 55,000 miles. Stunning blue interior, this car is is rare find or anyone looking for an automatic with low miles and a very reasonable price of £2,995
52 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Look 3dr (a/c) in ice bluek, 38,000 miles, 3dr, low Insurance 1.1. CD player, air con, pas, electric windows. Excellent condition £2,995
03 FORD Ka 1.3i Collection Silver, 38,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition £2,995
52 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 5dr silver, ONLY 53,000 miles FSH , electric windows, remote locking, PAS, e/m. ONLY GRP 3 insurance £2,995
52 FORD KA 1.3 Style 3dr 46,000 Miles Silver, 46,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition £2,995
N DAIHATSU Fourtrak 2.8 TDL SE Independent Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively call Tim on 07815 737694. Part ...exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £2,995
X PEUGEOT 306 2.0 HDI LX 5dr In inka gold metallic. Extremely economical DIESEL 5dr hatch in fantastic condition. Full charcoal velour intreior, alloy wheels, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, CD player. Capable of over 50 MPG. Please feel free to contact £2,495
Y FIAT Punto 1.8 HGT 16V 3dr In niagro blue covered ONLY 53,000 miles with SERVICE HISTORY. Genuine 1.8 HGT 3dr. Stunning condition, low insurance hot hatch. Top of the range, fully loaded with SATALITTE NAVIGATION, air conditioning, 6 disc in dash CD multi changer, electric windows £2,495
S MERCEDES A140 5dr Classic Finished in Alpine white with charcoal zebrano cloth. Covered only 67,000 miles. In fantastic condition with electric windows, remote central locking, ABS, ASR, BAS, power steering, CD player. Fantastic value Mercedes that will not disapoint £2,495
V LANDROVER Freelander 2.0 XDI Station Wagon in black, DIESEL 5dr 4 wheel drive. Electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels ..... £????
M MITSUBISHI Shogun 2800 Turbo Diesel LWB Automatic in green met, late gen 2.8 Turbo DIESEL automatic 7 seater. Climate with a/c, e/w, electric everything £1,995
R FORD Escort 1.8 GTi 3dr 68,000 mile car with SERVICE HISTORY. In Calypso blue metallic, genuine 3dr GTi completley origional £1,995
X FORD KA Now 1.3 3dr Red, 56,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition £1,995
X FIAT Punto 1.2 Mira 3dr City In topaz blue metallic, covered ONLY 73,000 miles. ONLY GROUP 2 insurance, and low tax band £1,995
S FORD Focus 1.6 16v Ghia 5dr (thhr) in ice green met, FULL LEATHER, covered only 75,000 miles. Beautiful example with a/c, e/w, r/c/l £1,995
X FORD Fiesta 1.3 Finnese 3dr green met, FSH, , electric windows, central locking, PAS, e/m. ONLY GROUP 3 insurance £1,495
P FORD Fiesta 1.3 SI 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, alternatively call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available £795
X FORD Fiesta 1.8 Diesel. Part exchange to clear on a trade basis. DIESEL pas £495

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54 **MG TF 1.6 (115).** Finished in power grey met with black hood, alloys, radio/cd, e/w, pas, 57k.....**£4,695**

02 **VAUXHALL Corsa 16v SXi 3-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, radio/cd, sport seats, privacy glass, 69k **£5295**

55 **FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** Finished in red with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 44k.....**£6995**

06 **CITROEN C3 1.4 Stop and Start Sensive Auto 5-Dr.** Finished in met blue, a/c, s/r, radio/cd, reverse parking sensors, paddle shift, 16k.....**£6295**

CONVERTIBLES

06 **PEUGEOT 206 CC 1.6 Alure.** Finished in moonstone blue met, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, 28k **£7495**
54 **MG TF 1.6 (115).** Finished in power grey met with black hood, alloys, radio/cd, e/w, pas, 57k **£4,695**
03 **PORSCHE Boxster 3.2 S.** Finished in black **with full grey leather**, 18" upgrade alloys, a/c, sports seats, cd, electric hood, 60k **£13795**

SPORTS/EXECUTIVE

57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) (150bhp) 16v SRI.** Met black, **full black leather,** sports seats, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k **£9695**
07 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 VXR 3-Dr.** Finished in met black, **half leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, sports seats, 23k **£10695**
56 **AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDi (Diesel) Quattro.** Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k **£25995**
06 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi+.** Finished in met black with **1/2 leather sports trim**, alloys, pas, c/l, e/w, radio/cd, 38k **£5295**
55 **BMW 525 SE (Diesel) Auto** Finished in met silver with full **black Dakota leather,** alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner fsh, 55k **£12495**
55 **AUDI TT Coupe (180)** Finished in met grey with **black leather/suede trim,** alloys, air/con, cd, 62k **£10995**
55 **VW Golf 2.0 GT TDi (Diesel) (140) 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, fsh, 63k **£8695**
55 **FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** Finished in red with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 44k **£6995**
05 **MERCEDES ML 270CDi (Diesel) Automatic.** Finished in light met blue with full grey leather, alloys, a/c, cd, 49k **£12195**
05 **VW Golf 2.0 GT TDi (Diesel) (140) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, multichanger, fsh, 39k **£9795**
54 **PEUGEOT 206 GTi 1.6 HDi (Diesel) 110 3-dr.** Finished in aegean blue with **full black leather**, sports pack, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 44k **£6495**
04 **MINI Cooper 1.6 Auto 3-Dr.** Finished in met silver with **1/2 black leather trim**, full glass panoramic s/r, sat nav, climate control, alloys, multi-play cd **£7995**
53 **VW Golf 1.9 GT TDi (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k **£6295**
52 **BMW XS 3.0i 5-dr Automatic.** Finished in met silver, **full black leather,** alloys, a/c, cruise, reverse parking sensors, cd/multi, 63k **£9995**
52 **PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr.** Finished in china blue met, **leather/suede interior**, pas, alloys, climate, cd **£4295**
02 **VAUXHALL Corsa 16v SXi 3-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, radio/cd, sport seats, privacy glass, 69k **£5295**
Y **PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, **black leather trim**, alloys, climate, cd, 36k **£3695**

4x4 / MPV / ESTATE

07 **NISSAN X-Trail 2.2 DCi (Diesel) SE 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 76k **£8495**
07 **RENAULT Megane Dynamique 1.6 VVTI Sport Tourer.** Finished in met grey,alloys, a/c, cd, 18k **£6995**
56 **AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDi (Diesel) Quattro.** Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k **£25995**
56 **VAUXHALL Zafira Design 1.9 CDTi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met red with **1/2 black leather trim,** alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 7 seats, 26k **£8495**
55 **PEUGEOT Partner Totem 1.9 (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 33k **£5495**
05 **MERCEDES ML 270CDi (Diesel) Automatic.** Finished in light met blue with **full grey leather,** alloys, a/c, cd, 49k **£12495**
05 **RENAULT Megane Sport Tourer Dynamique 1.9 DCi (Diesel) Estate.** Met grey, alloys, climate, cd, fsh, 1 owner **£4695**
05 **RENAULT Laguna Expression 2.0 16v Sport Tourer.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, electric s/r, 74k **£3995**
54 **MITSUBISHI L200 2.8 TD (Diesel) Warrior Double Cab Pick Up.** Finished in met champagne silver with **full black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio, cd **£5795**
54 **FORD Focus C-Max 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio, cd, 37k **£4995**
04 **MAZDA 6 2.0D TS (Diesel) Estate.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cdm cruise control, 73k **£5495**
04 **SUZUKI Ground Vitara SWB 1.6 SE.** Finished in met green over silver, pas, c/l, e/w, radio/cd, a/c, 23k **£4495**
03 **NISSAN Almera Tino S 1.8 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, c/l, e/w, climate control, 43k **£3695**
T **MITSUBISHI Shogun GLS 2.8 TD LWB (Diesel) Automatic.** Finished in met green, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 7 seats, 91k **£3995**

FAMILY CARS

07/57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI 16v SRI.** Met black, **full black leather sports seats**, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k **£9695**
56 **CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, cd, 24k **£5995**
06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate T 3-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£6295**
06 **CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe.** Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k **£4995**
06 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 31k **£5995**
55 **VW Passat SE 1.9 TDi (Diesel) 4-Dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, air con, radio/cd, 63k **£7495**
05 **SEAT Altea Stylance TDI (Diesel)** Finished in met grey, alloys, climate, cd, 56k **£6495**
05 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 D4D (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 48k **£5995**
05 **FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.6 TDCi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in tonic blue met, alloys, a/c, cd, 70k **£5995**
05 **FORD Focus LX 1.6 TDCi (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in panther black met., pas, a/c, c/l, e/w, 82k **£5495**
05 **FORD Mondeo Ghia 2.0 TDCi (130) (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in tonic blue met., alloys, air con, cd, cruise control, 68k**£5495**
05 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE 5-Dr.** Finished in met grey, alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, 38k **£5295**
54 **VW Golf 1.6S FSi 5-Dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, air con, radio/cd, 6 speed, fsh, 65k **£6695**
54 **FORD Focus 1.6 Auto 5-dr.** Panther black, alloys, cd, pas, c/l, e/w **£3995**
04 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 1.6 VVTi Auto 3-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, 58k **£4995**
04 **SEAT Leon SE 1.8 20v 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, 47k **£4795**
04 **FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd/multichanger, 42k **£4495**
04 **FORD Mondeo 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in oyster gold met, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, cruise control, 57k **£3995**
53 **FORD Mondeo 1.8 Zetec 5-dr.** Finished in oyster gold met, alloys, a/c, cd, cruise control, 68k **£3695**
03 **MERCEDES A170 CDI (Diesel) Classic 5-dr.** Finished in blue, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 45k **£4995**
02 **MERCEDES A140 Elegance 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd 59k **£3995**
03 **CITROEN C5 LX 5-Dr 2.0 HDi (Diesel).** Finished in met red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 81k **£2995**
03 **ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE 4-dr.** Finished in met. blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys **£3195**
51 **TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi GS 5-dr.** Finished in met red, a/c, radio, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 67k **£2695**
Y **VW Passat 2.0 SE 4-dr.** Finished in met blue with **full beige leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 88k **£2995**
Y **MAZDA 323 1.6 GSi 5-Dr.** Finished in blue met., alloys, a/c, cd **£2695**
W **FORD Focus 1.8 Millenium 5-dr.** In yellow with **full black leather,** alloys, a/c, cd, 47k **£2795**

SMALL CARS

08 **(New Shape) VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life 3-dr.** Finished in black, pas, c/l, e/w, radio, cd, 15k **£6995**
57 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr.** Finished in jeans blue met, pas, a/c, radio/cd, e/w, 10k **£6795**
57 **SMART Fortwo Pure 71 Auto.** Finished in black, pas, r/c/l, cd, 6k, only £35 per year road tax **£5995**
07 **FORD Fiesta Zetec Climate 1.4 TDCI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 42k, only £35 per year road tax **£6795**
56 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3-dr.** Finished in met moondust silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 48k **£6195**
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GEM sport

Can the Lions forget that first half nightmare and go on to fulfil a dream?

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THE general consensus of media opinion since last weekend's narrow defeat in Durban is that the British & Irish Lions have a great chance of putting mighty South Africa to the sword in Pretoria on Saturday.

Such optimism is understandably based on that remarkable turnaround in the last 30 minutes, when the Lions scored 14 unanswered points and had the world champions clinging on for dear life at the end, relieved to scramble a 26-21 win.

There is no doubt that the belated arrival off the bench of prop Adam Jones and hooker Matthew Rees was a decisive factor in restoring stability to a demoralised eight that had spent the previous hour in ignominious retreat.

While most had expected the Lions' scrum at least to provide a solid competitive platform against a front row that was generally considered inferior to them, this proved not to be the case.

In fact, one of the saddest sights of all was to see the dejected figure of England's veteran World Cup winning prop Phil Vickery trudging off after being cruelly dismantled by Tendai 'the Beast' Mtwariria in a nightmare first half for both him and his team.

Not that the string of penalties Vickery conceded was the sole cause of Lions' first half disarray, for they were struggling in the line-out and at the breakdown and also wasting golden chances against fired-up Springboks who threatened to blast them off the park, after a quick-fire try by skipper Jon Smit.

Four successful penalty kicks followed, interspersed with a fine try by Tom Croft, set up by the increasingly-impressive centre pairing of Jamie Roberts and Brian O'Driscoll.

However, this still made the score at the interval 19-7 to a clearly dominant home team, who confidently expected to ram their superiority home in the second period.

One devastating rolling maul drove the Lions back half the length of the field, culminating in a converted try – but the expected scoring avalanche never came.

The Lions made positive substitutions from the bench, while (not for the first time) the over-confident South African coach did the opposite, replacing the core of his team with inferior players and the tide turned.

The now rampant Lions took advantage and when Stephen Jones converted late tries by Croft and Mike Phillips, South Africa were only too glad to hear the final whistle.

However, they will be a totally different proposition in the second test high up on the lung-bursting highveldt in Pretoria on Saturday, and the Lions management have had much to ponder on selection-wise after Durban, with the fate of the series already hanging in the balance. Can they get the mix right this time?

For the travelling Lions' fans, as well as the thousands of tellywatchers back here at home, it promises to be another nail-biting afternoon that could again go to the wire.

STUBBORN COWBRIDGE BATTLE HARD TO EARN A DRAW

ON the same day that the British Lions began their test against the Springboks, Cowbridge First XI embarked on a journey to Maesteg to play Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club for the first time in many a year.

However, this encounter in the Llynfi Valley was more reminiscent of the events in Rorke's Drift than the test match in Durban!

Yet again Tom Merilaht won the toss and decided to field, a decision he no doubt began to question fairly soon as the opposition raced to 100 for no wicket in 25 overs.

Eventually, Will Haines broke this productive partnership in his first outing of this summer after returning from university.

A smartly taken caught and bowled did for one of the opening batsmen when the score was on the fateful score of 111.

This did not, however, signal a team collapse although wickets did fall fairly regularly as the home team progressed to 246-9 in their 50 overs.

To Cowbridge's credit they persevered throughout the innings and with some excellent wicket keeping from Elliot Swallow, another two batsmen stumped, untiring bowling from Ryan Taylor, Nick Davies and Will Haines, they restricted Maesteg to 246 on a wicket that was not too kind to bowlers.

The Cowbridge innings began with a new opening partnership of Tom Merilaht and Andy Finucane.

The skipper made this decision hoping that Andy would strike some quick boundaries to make early inroads into the Maesteg total.

However, this strategy was destined to fail as the skipper lost his wicket in the early overs while attempting a hook in the third over.

After that the batsmen struggled to put together any meaningful partnership.

Ryan Taylor came to the crease in the 10th over when the score was 27 and batted very carefully, scoring a sprinkling of boundaries while attempting to push the score along without taking chances.

Ryan was eventually caught for 41 well-earned runs in the 40th over.

At that point the visitors were staring defeat in the face having lost their ninth wicket in the 40thover.

Ten overs remained to secure a draw.

The Maesteg fielders surrounded the final pairing of James Thomas and John Gilbert in their eagerness for victory, but with maturity far beyond his age James assumed the dominant role and faced most of the bowling while protecting his older partner from the attack.

James and John stood firm and withstood all that the Maesteg players could hurl at them, including the abuse, in their frantic efforts to force a victory.

James ended on 27-not out and John 2-not out, a precious partnership in the face of intense intimidation.

Next Saturday the First XI play BS Port Talbot at home. The Seconds travel west.

As usual the cricket club welcomes your support.

DL

RUGBY CHAIRMAN IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE

COWBRIDGE RFC held its AGM at the clubhouse on June 18.

In a reasonably well attended meeting chairman Lyn Thomas advised those present that the off-field work at the club was either completed or near to it – that is work on the changing rooms, showers and toilets.

Lyn thanked the out-going treasurer Colin Plimmer, who has decided to stand down, for all of his many years of service at the club.

Wyn Davies has agreed to take over that role. The committee remained the same, save that Rob Vaughan has decided to step down, while Glyn Thomas has stepped up.

Lyn turned to the on-field side of the club's business and started by thanking Kevin Mably and Dai Breed for their hard work as coaches over the last few seasons, and Kevin for his work with the successful ladies team.

Kevin was offered every good wish for his new role with Pencoed.

That said Lyn was delighted to announce that Phil Agar had agreed to return to the club that he successfully coached in 2003/2004.

Phil has played rugby at a very high level including Cardiff, and after leaving Cowbridge he was wanted by Beddau.

Under his guidance they progressed into Division 2, then he went to Coventry as director of rugby and thereafter was forwards coach at Premier League outfit Bedwas.

Phil Agar is welcomed by captain Steve Birchenough and chairman Lyn Thomas.

Why has he come to Cowbridge you may ask? Well Phil has agreed to come back to where it all started and he, and new team manager, Dai Breed, have taken on the challenge – and let's make no mistake, it is a big challenge, of getting the club back to where it should be.

In that regard Phil and Dai need the support not only of the club and its members but the town itself.

Lyn was optimistic for the future.

The Youth team, after an excellent first year, can hopefully be built on and the Ladies were perhaps organising themselves in a way that the other teams could learn from.

Training, which should show the benefits of Phil experience and innovation, starts in July, probably July 7.

Training is Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9 , all players are asked to come down with someone new. If you fancy some early season training or just getting involved in the club then come on down. We would be delighted to see you.

On June 12 Lyn, with a delegation from the committee, travelled to Llandaff North RFC where Lyn was delighted to receive the Cardiff and District Referees Society Award for the way in which the club looked after and entertained their referees.

We are holding a barbeque this Saturday prior to the second Lions test against South Africa .

You are again invited to come down early and enjoy the day.

Please note that the inter-club touch rugby tournament scheduled for Saturday has been postponed.

RV/RK

LOCAL DENTIST'S GOLF DAY IN BOOST FOR MACMILLAN

Colin and the team of golfers who attended the Macmillan golf day.

LOCAL dentist Colin Rees recently organised a golf day at the Vale Hotel Golf & Spa Resort which raised the fantastic amount of £1,850 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Everyone had a great time, including the chap who ended up paddling in the lake!

Colin said: "I'm really pleased to be able to support Macmillan's great work in south east Wales. The VIP Dental Classic is going to be an annual event so if anyone is interested in taking part next year, please contact me at my dental practice which is situated in Eastgate, Cowbridge."

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager for Macmillan added: "I would like to say a huge thank you to Colin for all his hard work in organising this event on our behalf."

For more information on Macmillan Cancer Support or how you can help fundraise, please contact Sue Pickin on 01656 867966 or email spickin@macmillan.org.uk.

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